

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 22, 1975

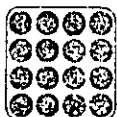
10:00 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL,

Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The regular monthly Board meeting of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, July 22, 1975, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Vice Chairman

JERRY JONES, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of May 23, 1975. (9)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request of William D. Hunter for permit to remove 22,000 cubic yards of fill material from Bayou Teche where it fronts his property for improvement to his property west of Patterson, St. Mary (19)



Parish, Louisiana.

3. Request for renewal of permit by Mississippi River Materials, Inc. to dredge sand material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 71.0 between Mile 70.26 and Mile 51.57 AHP, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. (20)
4. Request of Sidney F. Diez for renewal of permit expiring July 30, 1975, to remove fill material from the Amite River approximately 3/4 miles west of Port Vincent Bridge, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. (22)
5. Request by Lambert Gravel Company, Inc. for permit to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi at Profit Island in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. (23)
6. Request by Lake Providence Dredging Company for permit to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff, Mile 463 to Mile 461 AHP and at Fitler Bend, Mile 477.7 to Mile 478.2 AHP. (25)

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER



7. Closing those "State Seed Ground" areas that (27)
are to be utilized as shell planting
areas (Sister Lake and portion of Back
Bay).
 8. Schedule the opening and duration of opening (29;
of "Oyster Seed Reservation" and pre- 32)
vious shell plant areas (Bay Junop and
Bay Gardene).
 9. Opening of oyster season in Calcasieu Lake. (35)
 10. Discussion of special bait season. (41)
- MR. RICHARD YANCEY
11. Consider establishing alligator season in (45)
Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu
parishes.
 12. Establish 1975-76 hunting season dates for (125)
doves, rails, snipe, gallinules, teal,
woodcock and any other upland migratory
game species.
 13. Request from Catahoula Parish Police Jury. (122)
 14. Request on Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management (10)
Area.
 15. Recommendations on hunting seasons, ratify (122)
and/or reconsider.



MR. KENNETH SMITH

16. Consider bids on fish holding shed at (136)
Beechwood Hatchery.
17. Discussion of Lake Bistineau regulations. (161)

OTHER BUSINESS

18. Set date for August meeting. (142)

NOTE: The following items not shown on the printed
agenda were also considered.

Introduction of guests. (5;
124)

Mitigation lands, Concordia Parish (Mr. (7)

Williams)

(See also item "Falkenheiner
resolutions".)

Memorial resolution, Dan Greene. (133)

Lake Bistineau drawdown. (138)

Falkheiner resolutions re pumping plant, (145)

Concordia Parish, and channel enlargement,

Bayou Cocodrie; mitigation lands,

Concordia Parish.

Extension of shrimp season in certain areas. (149)

Remarks of Francis Braud (Louisiana Wildlife (160)

Federation) re actions at recent



session of State Legislature.

Sea Robin Pipeline remedial work (discussed (169)
in Commission meeting of July 1, 1975).

Discussion of alligator season pressure in
parishes other than Cameron, Vermilion
and Calcasieu - Mr. Ted O'Neil. (170)

Adjournment. (172)

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CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Ladies and gentlemen
we are going to start the meeting, but we have
some people with us this morning before we start
the meeting that I want to introduce.

We have a special friend here, young
Mr. Cook. Would you stand, sir?

And of course his mother came along to
see Mr. Cook behaved himself and wrote in his
articles just exactly what we want!

Mike is here with us, and we are always
glad to have him, when he agrees with us and glad
to have him when he disagrees with us.



We also have with us this morning some distinguished guests, and I will ask Mr. Allen Ensminger to introduce our guests from the Interior Department.

MR. ENSMINGER: We have Rick Parsons, down at the far end there, from Washington, D. C., in the branch of law enforcement; Fred Williams from the Atlanta office, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Don Pfister, also from the office in Atlanta; and Joe Ruzze (phonetic spelling) is the agent in charge here in New Orleans.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Allen, would you tell them Fred Williams is formerly from Breaux Bridge? Isn't that right, Fred?

MR. FRED WILLIAMS: That's right!

THE CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute! I don't know of anybody else from Breaux Bridge!

MR. WILLE: I am glad somebody made good!

THE CHAIRMAN: And we have with us also a very distinguished former member of the Commission. I will ask Mr. Jones to introduce him and say what you want to about him, as long as it is good.



MR. JONES: We have with us Mr. John Paul Crane, who served as a member of this Commission for many years, and as all of you know, he is an individual who has been interested in the alligator business for a long time.

We also have with us Frankie Henry from Cameron Parish, former president of the police jury, and Roland Trosclair, who is the president of the police jury of Cameron Parish now. We have another fellow really from Cameron but he lives in New Orleans, whose name is Roger Vincent with the Miami Corporation. You all know they cooperated extensively with the alligator research and bringing the alligator back.

MR. BERRY: It looks to me like Cameron is shut down this morning!

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we have in the audience a Mr. Ronnie Williams, and I purposely left him to last to introduce him because I thought he might have a comment or two he would want to make about Bayou Cocodrie, if he cares to. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Luttrell, I think it has become apparent at this time that the mitigation



lands in Concordia Parish have come to sort of a standstill but the local government and people there are very much behind it and are putting pressure where pressure is deserved on our Senators and Congressmen in Washington and also in Vicksburg for money to be set aside for this purpose. You know, they have worked with us up to a point and then all of a sudden they cut us off, saying the money is not there for the lands.

At this time the mitigation lands are at a standstill in Concordia parish and we do appreciate your support in this and your interest in the mitigation lands.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and we can assure you that we are giving you all the help and we have been doing some pushing. I have been doing some telephone calling to our Congressional delegation and have some promises, but if those promises are not any better than the promises have been from 1965 until today, we still haven't accomplished anything but I am hoping that you will see in the 1976 budget money for this land and I have some reason to be hopeful that it will be there. Thank



you, Mr. Williams.

Now, have I left out anyone?

If not, I would like as our first item of business ask if there are any corrections on the minutes, or do I have a motion that they stand approved as written?

MR. JONES: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones that the minutes stand approved as published. Do I have a second?

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille seconds. Those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it. So ordered.

Now I have a request to change the format of the agenda so that two young men can get back on the job, and I see no reason not to bring Item 14 up before Item 2. If I have no objections from the Commission, I will ask that the two gentlemen come forward to discuss the Loggy Bayou Management Area. For the record, please state your name and



who you represent.

MR. RAYMOND: My name is Eddie Raymond and I represent the Bow Hunters Haven Archery Club of New Orleans, Kenner and the immediate metropolitan area, plus I am representing the LFAA and NFAA also today.

Our request is that, if possible, we understand there will be a two-day gun season established in the Loggy Bayou Game Reserve Area which for the past few years has been strictly a bow-hunting game reserve excluding squirrel hunting and rabbit hunting. It is not exactly a gripe because 80 percent of us are gun hunters, anyway, but we feel that the game that is there at the present time is too small for gun hunting. We understand that next year they will have more area to hunt in and we would have to bow out and we wouldn't have any argument whether they established a gun season in this game reserve, anyway.

We just ask that this particular year the two-day gun season would not be established and the game reserve would be closely looked at this year before any kind of decision would be made



for next year's establishment of a gun season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Are there any comments? Any questions?

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, being from that area and being familiar with that particular game reserve, I am in complete agreement with him that I think the reserve at the present time is too small for gun-hunting. Therefore, I am going to make a motion that we strike the two-day gun hunt from the Loggy Bayou Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: If I understood you correctly, you moved that we agree with the people on their wishes as to Loggy Bayou Area.

MR. WILLE: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?

MR. THOMPSON: You don't have a second on that yet.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Berry.

MR. BERRY: I might say this, in my second, which I think will concur with what Mr. Thompson is fixing to day, for this one year I am



to yield to these bow-hunters, but next year I think it will be a different ball game.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to yield. I see no justification for a special season for any special interest groups in the State of Louisiana; me being one of those special interest people kind of gives me a position to talk. I would like to point out several things, that the bow-hunter has 20-some odd game management areas where no gun hunting is allowed and I don't know the exact number of days. Perhaps at this time I ought to call and ask Dick Yancey if he can give me the biological information in regard to this hunt and point out these things that would more or less let us base our decision on the vote.

MR. YANCEY: Well, from the biological standpoint, hunting bucks only with guns for two days is not going to hurt that deer herd on the Loggy Bayou Game Management Area. The archery season would open prior to that on about October 1 and the archers would have the exclusive use of that area for deer hunting purposes and they would be hunting does as well as bucks right up until the



two-day gun hunt is held. If the two-day gun hunt on bucks only did hurt that deer herd, this would be the first time in history that this had occurred.

Now here in Louisiana the archers are given a very, very lengthy statewide archery season, taking deer of both sexes, beginning about October 1 and running on up to January 11, and they are allowed to hunt on all these game management areas up until the gun season starts. Additionally, we are now in the process of closing the purchase of an additional thousand acres to be added to the Loggy Bayou Game Management Area and we expect that that transaction will be completed prior to the opening of that gun season.

At the time this tract of land was bought, no consideration was given to the fact that one particular type of hunter would be given exclusive use of that particular game management area or any other game management area. These game management areas were bought for all the hunters, regardless of what type of gear they use. Now most of them are open to muzzleloaders, they are open to rifles, they are open to archery, they are open to whatever



they want to use, if it is a legal weapon. This is the only game management area we have where the hunting for the past couple of years has been restricted to only one type of gear. We feel from a biological standpoint that the regulation that has already been established by the Commission is sound and it is not going to hurt the deer herd. It is not going to impose any great restriction on the archers because they will have the opportunity to go in there in advance of the gun hunters. We will have to admit that there will probably be a crowd of people in there during the gun season but we have this same condition that exists on these other game management areas. We have had as high as 11,000 people on one of these game management areas on one date so we do have that problem, but that is a people problem. From the standpoint of the deer herd that two-day buck hunt only with a gun is not going to hurt the deer herd, in our opinion. If it does, we can always come back later and adjust that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

MR. WILLE: Just a moment, Mr. Yancey.



Do you feel that by opening two days of gun that the deer will be worth bow-hunting after that?

MR. YANCEY: I sure do. The bow-hunter is allowed to take deer of both sexes. This gun hunt is limited to bucks only.

MR. WILLE: The does won't get excited having all those --

MR. YANCEY: No, they sure won't.

MR. WILLE: Well, I am going to tell you what, biologically your reasoning is very sound. I have a stack of letters in there about this high (indicating) from the Shreveport-Bossier area, and the Commission can go ahead and make the decision and if they want to vote me down, they can, but you all will go back to Baton Rouge and Breaux Bridge and Alexandria and Morgan City and Cameron and Don Wille has got to go back to Bossier City! So, consequently, I am going to stick to my guns on this thing, all right? Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don, let me make a comment.

MR. WILLE: I am sorry, Mr. Clay, I forgot Buckeye!

THE CHAIRMAN: Clay Luttrell up at



Alexandria gets a lot of telephone calls and I could have brought down some letters also, asking this same provision, so you are not the only one that is getting some pressure on giving these people an exclusive area to hunt. I foresee that if we do do this, we are going to be asked to make Saline Game Management Area an exclusive area for gun hunters only and perhaps several others, so I can't -- any other discussion?

MR. JONES: Move the question.

MR. THOMPSON: I said discussion before you said you move. I want to tell you one thing. We said last year that once we set those seasons last month at the time prescribed that we were pretty well going to stick to that and not have all these changes that we have had year in and year out. Everybody had the opportunity to be represented at the hearing in Alexandria and I personally, if for no other reason than that, would like to leave this one as is. However, I have other reasons but that is just one I want to point out. I yield to your question, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I move the previous question.



MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, sir --

THE CHAIRMAN: The question has been called for.

MR. THOMPSON: You have been outmaneuvered, Wille.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have been outmaneuvered. Those in favor of the question, say aye.

MR. WILLE: My motion, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: Your motion.

TWO MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those against the motion, say aye.

THREE MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Three to two, the motion is lost.

MR. BERRY: The Chairman is voting, to break the tie?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have to.

MR. WILLE: I want all you bow hunters to remember that the Chairman is from Buckeye, Louisiana, and I will give you his telephone number right after the meeting!

MR. THOMPSON: Let me tell you, I had at



35 or 40-minute conversation with one bow hunter before I left Alexandria Sunday to come here, in reference to this same thing. He lives in Alexandria but he hunts at Loggy Bayou.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I have a very close neighbor that is up at my house about once or twice a week, talking about the Loggy Bayou hunting area, so you don't need my telephone number. He will keep me busy, don't worry. Thank you, Don.

MR. WILLE: Well, I went down in flames!

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will move on. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have a number of items today and since Mr. Harry Schafer is not here, I will also attempt to handle his items, so there will be a number of issues we have to entertain.

The first group involves either a request for new permits or renewals of old permits, and most of these are routine and we have examined them and found that in general they have no effect upon the Commission or the ecosystem where this operation is taking place.



The first one is a request by Mr. William D. Hunter to permit the removal of 22,000 yards of fill material from Bayou Teche where it fronts on his property and to improve his property. It is a bulkheading type operation and an erosion control system. We have examined this. We find no problem with it and would recommend that a permit be issued for a period of one year or until the work is done, if prior to that, at a royalty of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation, gentlemen. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)



BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to William D. Hunter to remove fill material from Bayou Teche where it fronts his property for improvement of his property west of Patterson, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, in the amount of approximately 22,000 cubic yards, for a period of one year from July 22, 1975 to July 22, 1976, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Number 3, Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item No. 3 is a request for renewal of an existing permit by Mississippi River Materials, Inc. to dredge sand or fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 71 and between Mile 70.26 and again at Mile 71.57 AHP. This permit has been in operation for some time. We have had no problem with it. It is not an ecological problem and we would recommend that the permit be granted for a period of one year at five cents per cubic yard.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the Mississippi River Materials, Inc. to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 71.0 AHP between Mile 70.26 and Mile 71.57 AHP, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 30, 1975 to July 30, 1976,



at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 4 is a similar request by Mr. Sidney Diez to renew a permit or extend it to complete some work that is going on in the Amite River near Port Vincent, and here again it has to do with erosion of property and a bulkheading operation. We examined this and it has been in operation and we find no effect in this area. We would recommend that the permit be continued for a period of one year at five cents per cubic yard.

MR. JONES: The Amite at that point is not part of the Scenic --

DR. ST. AMANT: No, no. The Scenic River is above, way up north.

MR. JONES: I move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response.)



So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to Sidney F. Diez for
renewal of permit to remove fill
material from the Amite River,
approximately 3/4 miles west of
Port Vincent Bridge, Ascension
Parish, Louisiana, for a period of
one year from July 30, 1975 to
July 30, 1976, at a royalty rate of
five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item is a
request by the Lambert Gravel Company, Inc. to
dredge for gravel and/or sand in the Mississippi
River at Profit Island in East Baton Rouge Parish.
There have been a number of dredging operations
around Profit Island. There have been no prob-
lems. We have examined this and we recommend that



the permit be issued on the basis of one year at five cents a yard for that sand that will be used for fill material and any gravel or wash sand that might be used for other type of construction would pay an appropriate royalty, which is somewhat above five cents. It is standard, set.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission
to Lambert Gravel Company, Inc., to



dredge for gravel in the Mississippi River and Profit Island Chute, Profit Island, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 22, 1975 to July 22, 1976.

DR. ST. AMANT: The Lake Providence Dredging Company holds a permit for dredging in the Mississippi River in the area of Lake Providence. This permit expires and they are asking for renewal with slight adjustments in the actual dredging site. We have examined this and it meets all the requirements set forth by the Commission and we would recommend that a permit be issued to them at five cents a yard for that sand used for fill and the appropriate royalties for wash sand and gravel.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission
to Lake Providence Dredging Company,
Inc., to remove sand, gravel and/or fill
material from the Mississippi River at
Willow Cutoff, Mile 463 AHP to Mile 461
AHP, and at Fitler Bend, Mile 477.7 to
Mile 478.2 AHP, for a period of one
year from July 22, 1975 to July 22, 1976.

DR. ST. AMANT: Now, this concludes the
section I would normally handle on permits. Mr.
Harry Schafer, Chief of the Seafoods Division, is
not in town and he has asked me to handle several
items which deal with the fixing of seasons, par-
ticularly oyster seasons, around the state, and I
would propose to do that.



The first one is a request or a resolution in which we would ask the Commission to close two areas which have been planted with oyster shells as cultch, or, excuse me, clam shells as cultch and to provide for seed oysters next year. These two areas, one is in Sister Lake in Terrebonne Parish and the other is in portions of Black Bay and Bay Craba in Plaquemines Parish.

This planting will be complete. The areas are posted. We would propose that the areas be closed to fishing until sometime next year, approximately 16 months, and they would be opened at the next oyster season. The reason for this is to allow the young oysters adequate time to grow and to give them the necessary protection during this period.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Any discussion? Do I have a motion?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.



(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, in an effort to expand the oyster resources of the state, recently planted approximately 30,000 cubic yards of whole clam shell at two locations, one in Caillou (Sister) Lake in Terrebonne Parish and Black Bay/Bay Craba area in Plaquemines Parish, and

WHEREAS, this was done to provide suitable surfaces for spat to set and mature to a desirable size for seed, which generally takes twelve to fifteen months,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that these areas that have been properly posted are to be closed to fishing during the 1975-76 oyster season.



DR. ST. AMANT: The next item deals with the opening of certain shell planting areas that we planted last year and which are now ready to be harvested. These areas are at Petit Pass over in the east side of the river and near the Mississippi Sound, at Bay Gardene, which is one of our oyster reservations, and at Hackberry Bay, which is an area down in the Barataria Bay area north of Grand Isle.

Since these areas have been planted and the oysters have been growing for a little over one year now, we would propose (1) that the season be opened on October 1. Now this is not concurrent with the opening of the normal season, it is a little bit later. The reason we want to open on October 1 is that we feel that the oysters will have a better chance of survival when the weather is cooler and they will have a little better chance for another month of growth, so we propose that these shell plantings be opened October 1, 1975, and that they be closed, mandatorily closed, on May 20, 1976.

We have two other provisions, however.



One, that the area of Bay Gardene, where the shell planting occurred, will be fished with a daily permit system only, and this is to determine the exact production on a per-acre basis for this type of operation, and further, that the Director be authorized and empowered under Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, to close these areas or change the size limits after January 1 if the biological evidence so indicates that we should not go to May 20.

I would recommend that these areas which are to be opened to fishing be handled in this manner.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation, gentlemen. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission in the
spring of 1973 and 1974 planted clam
shell in order to provide setting
material for oyster spat in the vicinity
of Hackberry Bay, Le Petit Pass, Bay
Gardene, and

WHEREAS, the Commission had
closed these areas to oyster fishing
to permit suitable seed oyster catch
and development, and

WHEREAS, the shell plants in
1974 were provided for by federal dis-
aster funds and production account-
ability is necessary,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission will open the shell
plants at Le Petit Pass, Bay Gardene
and Hackberry Bay on October 1, 1975
with a mandatory closing day of May 20,



1976, as provided for by law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bay Gardene shell plant will be fished under a daily permit system to allow for a determination of the production from this area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized and empowered to close said areas, if biologically necessary, and Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, authorizes the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state-controlled grounds.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item deals with the normal annual opening of the oyster seed grounds, the state seed grounds, and also includes one seed reservation to be opened. We would propose here that the season for oyster-taking on natural seed areas and in the Bay Junop seed reservation commence on September 3, 1975, and that it continue until May 20 of the following year; however, that



it shall be subjected to Title 56-433, which authorizes the Commission and the Director to regulate the size of the oysters taken and the closure of any or all of this area after January 1 if the biological evidence indicates that it should be closed, and this is also done with the concurrence of the oyster industry. We would point out, however, that Sister Lake, which is opened on alternate years, will be closed during this period because we do have some seed oysters planted in the area, which was referred to in the prior resolution. I would recommend that the season be set in this manner.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)



So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the natural oyster
reefs ("Oyster Seed Grounds") under the
managerial supervision of the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission must
open on the first Wednesday following
Labor Day and a mandatory closing date
of May 20 of the following year, as pro-
vided for by Louisiana Statute Title 56,
Section 433, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reserva-
tions" are small portions of the "Oyster
Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for
seed oyster production which are opened
on alternate years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the natural oyster reefs and the
Bay Junop "Oyster Seed Reservation" will
be open on September 3, 1975;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that



the Caillou (Sister) Lake "Oyster Seed Reservation" will be closed during the 1975-76 oyster season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, also authorized the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state-controlled grounds if conditions dictate it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Number 10, please.

DR. ST. AMANT: The last oyster problem deals with the special opening of Calcasieu Lake for the taking of oysters. It is a little more complicated. What we propose here is that the season be set for a period from November 15, 1975 through March 31, 1976, starting at one-half hour before sunrise and extending to one-half hour after sunset.

Now, we make this recommendation, however, based on two things, one, that it is biologically justified and, two, that the area is also opened at the same time by the Health Department to be sure



there is no contamination in the area, but assuming it is given approval by the Health Department, then these would be the recommended seasons.

Second, that fishing in this area be limited to the use of tongs only and in daylight hours and, three, that the open area shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake west of the ship channel, including the East and West Cove area with the exception of Calcasieu River and the ship channel itself, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou shall also be closed.

The three-inch culling law shall be observed at all times by people using the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion and future harvesting. The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day and the taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels or two sacks per boat per day. All commercial fishermen of oysters shall have the proper licenses.

It is further suggested that the Director be authorized and empowered to extend or close said



season if we determine that this is feasible on a biological basis.

MR. JONES: Are you adding a new area this year?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, the only thing we are putting is the East and West Cove area. That West Cove is that section on the west side but I don't believe we are doing anything more on the east side. We have the same area. The only thing, we are keeping them out of the channel and East Fork and West Fork because I believe those areas are never really clean. You know, that is your old river section and the channel itself.

MR. JONES: Charlie White had indicated a considerable number of oysters at Nine Mile --

DR. ST. AMANT: Where is Max? Max, do you have anything?

MR. SUMMERS: On the east side, it would be this area here (indicating).

MR. JONES: It includes that area? Oh, it does.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion? You have heard the recommendation. Do I have a



motion?

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters of Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned area and



approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular public monthly meeting held in New Orleans on Tuesday, July 22, 1975, does hereby declare that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1975-76 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise November 15, 1975 through one-half hour after sunset March 31, 1976, with the right being reserved to extend said season or close it sooner if biologically justifiable;
- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours;
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake, west



of the Ship Channel, including the East and West Cove area, with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed;

- (4) The three-inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion and future harvesting;
- (5) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day;
- (6) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day;
- (7) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized and



empowered to extend or close said season, if biologically sound.

DR. ST. AMANT: The last item, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, deals with the special live bait season on shrimp which we have been operating since 1972 by means of concurrent resolution of the House and Senate, Resolution No. 121. This resolution directs and empowers us to open the season for fishing of bait shrimp, to be taken alive and under some rather strict regulations which require that affidavits be furnished to indicate that they are bona fide bait dealers; that they post a \$1,000 bond or certified check; in the event that they break any rules or regulations they will forfeit this \$1,000; and that their boats and equipment be so marked by certain identification marks so we can spot them both from the air and from the water, which gives us some adequate control over this.

In past years we have not had to deal with very many people. The maximum number was 28 fishermen in the state of Louisiana last year and the year before that we only had 19. We have had



a rather considerable number of requests so far and they are hoping that the Commission will continue this action and allow the issuance of these permits. We have advised these people year after year that it would be more to our liking if they would prevail upon the legislature to establish such a season by law, but they have not attempted to do this and we do not yet have a specific law dealing with it and we would have to act under the current resolution which has no terminal date on it.

I have no objection to this. It has been no real problem for us to this date and if it is the Commission's will, we will issue these permits after today.

THE CHAIRMAN: I see no reason why we shouldn't do that, Dr. St. Amant. Any discussion? Do we have a motion?

MR. JONES: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.



(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121, of the 1972 Regular Legislative Session, sponsored by Senator Samuel Nunez, urges and requests the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to grant permits to bait dealers to take live shrimp for sale as bait during the period of closed shrimp season, and

WHEREAS, commercial bait fishermen are requesting the Commission to grant a special compensation, in the form of a permit, allowing them to take live shrimp during closed season to be used in their businesses for sale to recreational fishermen, and

WHEREAS, in previous years the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission established the Special Bait Dealers Permit which proved to be most beneficial to the bait dealers and Commission records indicated there were no violations by any of the permittees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve the issuance of the Special Bait Dealers Permit to bait dealers to take live shrimp for sale as bait during the period of the closed shrimp season, between the spring brown shrimp season and the fall white shrimp season for 1975, in Zones 1, 2 and 3;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the permittee shall abide by all rules and regulations as stipulated in said permit. In the event any terms of the permit are violated, the permit will be revoked and permittee will forfeit his \$1,000 bond or cashier check being held by the Commission in good faith.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc. We are ready for you, Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the next item on the agenda has to do with the possibility of establishing an alligator season in a portion of Louisiana later on this fall.

As I already indicated earlier, we invited representatives from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be present at the Commission meeting today in order that they may answer questions from people in attendance and members of the Commission, and they have already been introduced, so I won't go through that again.

In order to refresh the memory of some of those that are present as to what has transpired in this state in the past 20 years, we might briefly review the history of this alligator situation. It has been a very controversial subject here in recent years and it might pay to refresh our memory briefly.

Back in the 1950's Louisiana law permitted the taking of alligators in this state on a state-



wide basis at any time of year by any means down to a size limit of two feet. By the end of the 1950's, in about 1958 and '59 the alligator population in Louisiana probably reached an alltime low and as a result of that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission then initiated a research program on these animals and also went to the legislature and requested authorization to have control of these animals. The legislature did act. They passed a statute that provided the Commission could then have the authority to set open season dates on the taking of these animals provided no alligators less than five feet in length would be taken.

In 1962 the alligator season over in Cameron Parish closed and in 1963 it was closed on a statewide basis. Now, Louisiana was the first state in the Southeast within the range of the alligator to close the season on this animal. It began to be afforded protection and as this took place, the alligator population began to climb. It climbed at a very rapid rate over in Cameron Parish where these animals received supplementary protection from the landowners and excellent prosecution



in the courts.

Then in 1962 Congressman T. A. Thompson from southwest Louisiana introduced a bill in the Congress to amend the Lacey Act and provide some federal protection for these animals. For some reason that we were never able to determine, that bill never did get through. Of course, he died in a car wreck up in North Carolina and the bill languished in a committee chaired by Congressman Seller from New York.

Then later on in the 60's, the Commission with the support of the Southeastern Game and Fish Commissioners caused a bill to be introduced that did become law, that provided some federal protection for these animals. By the end of the 1960's we figured that there were somewhere around 250,000 of these animals in Louisiana, and in 1967 they were designated as an endangered species by the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, at that time this did not mean federal control.

Then in 1972 the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission set a short experimental season on alligators in a portion of Cameron Parish



where we had an extremely high population of these animals. The season was opposed with vigor by people outside the state. We were swarmed by large numbers of people from other states; the news media and what-have-you came in and felt that this was one of the worst things that had ever taken place. However, those who bothered to go to Cameron Parish and see how the season was conducted quickly realized that the thing was being officially carried out and it had worked out well, it had not hurt the alligator population.

Then in 1973 the Commission held another season and the opposition by that time, because of the way the '72 season had been conducted, had died down to a great extent. However, it was opposed. Then in December of '73 our former President Nixon signed a new federal endangered species law into effect and this put federal control over the management of these animals, so no alligator season was conducted in 1974. However, here on the local level we were faced with overpopulations of these animals in a portion of the state.

At the request of the Wild Life and



Fisheries Commission in the early part of 1974, Governor Edwards petitioned the U. S. Interior Department through then Secretary Rogers Morton to take this animal off the endangered species list for a portion of the state.

Finally, in July of this year, earlier this month, it came out in the Federal Register that it was proposed by the Interior Department to completely delist the alligator from the endangered classification in three parishes in Louisiana and reduce it from endangered to threatened category in the remainder of Louisiana plus several of the other southeastern states and leave it on the endangered category for some of the other states on the fringe of the alligator range.

So, this brings us up to the point where we are now. We feel that, in view of the fact that we do have about 100,000 alligators down in Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes, we have got overpopulation of these animals in certain areas and there is a big interest in having a season this year. We do have a harvestable surplus of these animals. They should be utilized. Not to utilize



them is a waste of a natural resource. They are having an impact on other forms of wildlife in that area, and we would propose that the Commission, if at all possible, endeavor to hold a season in those three parishes, beginning about September 20 to October 19, in the three parishes, basically with the regulations to be established on about the same basis as they were carried out in the '72 and '73 seasons.

There would be a quota system imposed that would limit the number of these animals which could be taken on a unit of area of marsh.

Now, we do have some serious problems in connection with this as they have to do with timetable problems, for one, and secondly, we can't at this point predict what the market is going to be for the skins that would come in from the harvest.

The Federal Register in which the proposed regulations are now being published will remain open for comment until September 8 and then after comment is received by the Interior Department, then they will mold these into these proposed regulations and republish them again in the Federal



Register. I think as far as the state is concerned and the Commission is concerned, we are ready to go with a September season and we think it should be conducted in those three parishes, but we didn't know exactly where we would stand with the Interior Department, and for this reason we invited these gentlemen to come here and explain their position in connection with this matter and also perhaps to answer questions from anyone who may be in attendance, because certainly if we are going to go through with this thing, we want to do it in accordance with the laws and regulations and make sure that it works out properly and as it should.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, if it meets with your approval, I would like to call on Rick Parsons over there and let him explain the federal position in connection with this matter, where we stand, is it practical and feasible to begin a season about September 20, and just what their viewpoint and position is in connection with it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you come to the mike, please, sir?

MR. RICK PARSONS: My name is Rick Parsons.



I am with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, Washington office. Our office is responsible for writing regulations such as this one.

What I thought I would do to explain to everybody what the regulatory proposal is, is to give you a brief outline of the alligator portion of the proposal. The regulations themselves handle a lot of other problems in our endangered species program at the same time. For that reason they are fairly complex and I must say kind of difficult to understand generally.

What I have done on this chart is to show the three classifications in which alligators will be found under the federal law if this proposal goes into effect and to try to explain what that means.

The proposal would classify certain alligators as endangered. They would remain endangered species. Certain alligators would become threatened species and others would be delisted. That is, they would be removed from federal protection entirely.



The endangered animals would be all those found outside, that is, anywhere within the United States but outside of the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas. Obviously, they don't exist in all states outside these states but there are some accidental meanderings from time to time in states outside the normal range.

In these states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, in Louisiana in all areas outside the three southwestern parishes of Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu, in Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, the alligator would be classified as a threatened species. This is a new category provided in the endangered species law that went into effect at the end of 1972. When we get down to this point, I will explain what the difference is between these two, what that means.

In those three parishes of Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu, the alligator would be removed entirely from the endangered or threatened species list, and that carries with it some meaning that I will explain also.



In those areas where the alligator is endangered, the law says that you may not take any alligators. Taking includes hunting, collecting, capturing, killing, anything that fits within that description. In our regulations we do provide that emergency action by federal and state personnel to protect human life or to aid an animal which is injured or sick is authorized. That wouldn't affect anything here in Louisiana because no alligators here are endangered.

Interstate commerce, which includes transportation, delivery, sale, et cetera, between states is prohibited for the alligator or any of its products if it is endangered. Likewise, the importation of alligators, that is, 'gators that found their way out of this country and come back in in the form of live animals, parts or products, et cetera, is prohibited, and the exportation is prohibited.

Now, for those alligators that are threatened alligators in these areas, by our regulations all of these prohibitions that apply to endangered species would also apply to threatened



alligators, with several notable exceptions. The exceptions are that, first of all, nuisance or depredating alligators can be either trans-located or killed if necessary by state officers, employees or agents of the state, and in this context agent means a person who is under contract to the state basically, not a law enforcement agent necessarily.

Second, alligators can be taken in the course of state research or conservation activities by the same people, employees, officers or agents of the state, and third, hides of those that you might call state alligators, those that are taken in accordance with these activities I have just said, or alligator hides that come into the possession of the state through law enforcement activities, that is, illegal skins that are seized and then forfeited to the state, may be put into interstate commerce, including transportation, sale, delivery, et cetera, through the system that is going to be explained over here (indicating), what I call on this chart the look-alike system.

Now, for the alligators that are delisted, what I said was they aren't under federal protection



at all, but there is a hitch, as they say, in that. Since those alligators look like all other alligators once they leave this area where they occur in the wild, they pose a danger to these other alligators, to these populations. Essentially, say if there was a legal market and we had no way of distinguishing the legal from the illegal skins, we would simply be providing an incentive for illegal hunting in those areas where the alligator is still under substantial protection.

The following actions would be prohibited then for these look-alikes: the import, the export and the interstate commerce of those alligators or their hides or products, would be prohibited under federal regulation. What is notable here is that taking, the initial hunting of the alligator, would not be covered in any case. That means that there would be no federal jurisdiction over the taking of delisted alligators in those three areas. That would be controlled by the state law and regulation. Now, we do provide a special rule, which I will discuss in a minute, that enables us to distinguish those alligators which were in fact taken legally



from those three areas under state law and which are no longer threatened or endangered from all the other alligators which will allow the interstate commerce in those alligators, once we can tell them apart and what is moving in commerce is a legal product and not an illegal product.

Now certain permits are available for these three categories of alligators. If the alligator is endangered, then permits are available for scientific research with it or for the propagation of the alligator, but that's all. Permits are very strictly controlled for endangered species. There are strict procedural rules that also apply. Primarily that means that every permit application must be published in the Federal Register for a period of thirty days to allow public comment. This has caused quite a few complications in the procedures of issuing permits.

If the alligator is threatened, on the other hand, which it is in a good portion of the states yet, permits would be available for scientific research and propagation just as they are here but also for economic hardship, for zoological



exhibition, for educational purposes, for what we call special purposes, and this is kind of a miscellaneous category that gives us some flexibility to issue permits that didn't fit into any of these other categories. We have a similar permit under the federal migratory bird regulations.

The strict procedural rules that apply to endangered permits do not apply to permits issued for threatened species, which means that as a matter of procedures in issuing permits it is an awful lot simpler and takes a lot less time to issue these permits. The cost of these permits hasn't been set yet but I am assuming it will be \$25, which is the standard cost of those permits, and they are good for a given period of time. Our regulations would allow them to be good for up to two years.

Now, for the alligators that are delisted we provide a system for the interstate commerce in these alligators that is based on positive identification and control of the legal alligators to assure that we are not dealing with illegal alligators in the trade. We would propose that there be federal



licenses for all buyers, tanners and fabricators, and I have been told that those three categories basically describe all those people who would deal with alligators beyond the stage of hunting. These people would be put under federal license and they would be authorized under their license to transport, deliver, receive and sell alligator hides and products in interstate commerce, provided that they maintain the state tagging system with special provision that is built upon the state system of control of the hides and tagging of hides so that they know which are which and that this system would be maintained throughout certain stages of interstate commerce so that we could always keep the identification of these things.

Second, that they keep proper books and records, that is, books and records that would show their transactions in these identified hides. Third, they would be subject to federal inspection of their premises and their books and records would be subject to inspection, and fourth, probably one of the more important parts of this, that all products that would be made from these hides would



be marked with a special federal mark of some kind. We haven't got it yet but we have got a number of ideas and we are looking into the type of mark and what exactly it would look like.

Once the products are marked, they can then be freely sold, transported, moved around in interstate commerce, so that anyone who retails or distributes any of these products would have in his possession products with the federal mark on them and those products would be legal. Any other products found without the federal mark would be automatically subject to question. We would assume, of course, that they were not legal products.

One thing that is notable that was alluded to before is that this does not allow the exportation of alligator hides or products, and there are two reasons for that. One is minimal, the other is a primary reason. The minimal reason is that this is an experimental program and we would like to assure ourselves that we have proper controls over the identification and movement of these things before we move to the foreign market. That, however, is not the major reason.



The major reason is the new convention on trade in endangered species that went into effect on July 1 to which the United States is a party. That convention lists the alligator as the equivalent of an endangered animal. It doesn't have that tag on it, but they call it an Appendix I animal. Under that convention to which the United States is bound, those alligators or their products or parts may not be traded in international trade for commercial purposes, so that the shipment of hides or products would be prohibited by that, and that is federal law at this time. So, until the alligator is put into a different category under that convention, which is possible, there can't be any international trade in alligators. Once that becomes changed, and I think the intention is to move to change it, although it cannot be done overnight, then international trade in alligator hides and products would be possible.

Now we also in these regulations deal with a couple of special situations of which we were aware. The first one is the situation of captive alligators. For you that primarily means



alligator farming, but there are a lot of alligators, individuals, in captivity in zoos all over the country, all over the world, that are also a problem to us in the federal regulation of this area. What we have provided in this proposal is that all captive alligators are also look-alikes, that is, once they leave the area in which they are in captivity, you can't tell where in fact they came from, whether they were originally endangered, threatened or came from Cameron Parish and were not endangered or threatened.

Therefore, we have elected to treat them as threatened species, to make believe, in a sense, with the power that the statute gives us, that they were threatened alligators. Since they are threatened alligators, they would be eligible for all those permits that I said back here on the other page that are available for threatened alligators, including this special purpose permit. Therefore, it would be possible for alligator farmers to obtain special permits.

Now I wanted to point out to you, the intent is, as far as we have an intent on this



right now, that these permits would be granted for the marketing of hides of propagated alligators. That means that you have a propagation program where the alligators are reproducing themselves in captivity. We do plan eventually to come out with complete rules on the treatment of all wild-life propagated in captivity, because this is a problem that goes far beyond alligators. Such things as peregrine falcons are reproduced in captivity. That and the relationship between the wild populations and the control over these populations is a fairly large problem for us on the federal scale.

These rules are planned right now. We haven't really done any work on them yet, and I would say it would be six months to a year before anything has been done. They will treat this whole problem of how you deal with alligators in captivity a lot more thoroughly than we have proposed at this point.

There is also an alternative way to treat them that is provided in this regulation. There is a provision for something called captive self-



sustaining population. This would mean that where you have an endangered species and yet there are animals of that species in captivity which propagate well in captivity and in fact sustain the captive population through captive propagation, they could be put in a different category and treated as if they were threatened rather than endangered, which means that they would be available for a lot more permits, types of permits, than the endangered animals themselves. A good example of that is tigers, which I know don't even look like alligators, but that is the kind of thing we are thinking about, that there are in fact enough tigers being propagated in captivity to treat that population, if you will, differently from the ones in the wild. That would be an alternative way of handling this.

I would like to stress that these regulations are proposals. These ideas are not locked in cement in our minds. This is what we think will work and this is what we have proposed to the public. At the bottom here, for those of you who can read it, I said suggestions are welcome, and that



is not facetious at all. We understand the problems to some extent. We need the help of those that are involved in the problems and that understand them in detail to help us derive a set of regulations that meet the requirements of the law while, you know, within the limits of the law allowing those people to carry on their business if they can.

We have another special situation, if you will. On alligator hides that were legally obtained from the state under the 1972 and 1973 hunts but were not sold or moved prior to the time that the Endangered Species Act itself came into effect, we do provide in these regulations for a special exemption for those hides which were lawfully obtained prior to December 28, 1973, which is the day the act went into effect. At that time, as you know, the interstate commerce in endangered species, whether they came before the act or not, was made illegal, and a lot of people with different types of products, such as sperm whale teeth in the Northeast, were caught with these things on their hands and they found that they couldn't market them



in interstate commerce any more.

We have provided that these hides can be sold or transported in interstate commerce provided that they are sold to a federally licensed buyer, tanner, fabricator. In other words, they have to go into this "look-alike" system that we have provided for marketing alligator hides and products so as to keep control over them. It is the same system that the state puts its hides into when it comes up with hides. Also, we would want certification from the state official that these hides were in fact lawfully obtained and can be identified, and I can assure you that this is not a problem, that such certification can be given.

I think it should be clear by now that the allowance for interstate commerce in alligator hides under this proposal is based on a concept of strict control of both the source and the movement of hides. This control depends upon the strong state program that you have here in Louisiana where the hunting and the tagging of the hides so as to provide the basis for identification and the federal licensing and marking system for products



that continues the identification throughout the chain of commerce.

That in essence is the concept of this whole proposal. I would be pleased to answer any questions that anyone has at this time.

MR. JONES: Mr. Parsons, let me ask you point blank, do you see any reason why we cannot have an alligator season starting September 20?

MR. PARSONS: O. K., we discussed this in informal session yesterday. Essentially, no, with the understanding that these regulations are open for public comment until the eighth of September. By law we have to consider all that commentary and take a look at the regulations and redraft them as necessary to take into account the good ideas that are presented to us. You know, it is a matter of judgment by us on what we do, and this normally takes a fair amount of time. Our track record is not, well, we don't look like Speedy Harry's when we do that normally.

It is possible that this can be done in that amount of time, although it is difficult. Now I have talked to some of our people up in



Washington this morning after we met yesterday and I told them, "Gee, those guys pinned me down yesterday and said can we do this by September 20, and I said yes, I thought we could. Does that make you happy?" They said, "Yes, we are even willing to put it in writing that we will make a maximum effort to get these regulations out and in effect by the 20th of September. Obviously, we cannot guarantee that they will be in effect by the 20th of September, but we are willing to put everything we can behind it."

With that, I think, yes, it is possible that they will be in effect by that time. I think it can be done. I hate to sound like such a federal bureaucrat but since I am, that is the best I can tell you.

MR. WILLE: Very good, touche!

MR. THOMPSON: Rick, I wonder if you would comment a little bit further and give us a timetable that you envision on the delisting of the alligator so that the alligator can be traded in international commerce?

MR. PARSON: O. K. The best I can say



in response to that is that, in order to accomplish that, you have to move the alligator on the treaty from Appendix I to Appendix II or get it off there entirely. Considering the fact that it is threatened in a portion of its range and endangered in a portion of its range, I would suspect -- and I am not a biologist -- that it would stay under the treaty's protection for certain purposes.

If it were moved to the second list, Appendix II, trade in alligator products for commercial purposes would be possible under international permit. There is no prohibition against it, it simply has to be under control to make sure the animal doesn't fall back into the Appendix I or endangered category.

As far as I know now, the latest in cable traffic between Switzerland, which is the depositary government, and the United States and other countries indicates that the first meeting of all the parties to the convention will be in the middle to the end of 1976. Right now there are eleven or twelve parties to the convention and more countries are becoming parties all the time as their parlia-



ments ratify this convention. By the end of the year we may have twenty or thirty parties to the convention. It is hard to say.

There is another method besides waiting for the meeting of the parties to amend that list, and that is to do it by mail. There is a special mail procedure called for, and as I recall, it takes approximately four to five months to complete that procedure once it is started.

I cautioned yesterday that it is a question of international policy as to when you start this procedure. In other words, if the United States, with just a few countries being parties to the convention, were to come up and say, "We want to make some changes right now," other countries that are just about to become parties may get very irritated and say, "You are trying to railroad changes through before we have a chance to get in and have our say-so." They may not react that way. It is hard to tell, and I think the Department of State will have a lot to say about the timing of this particular thing.

But, as far as the U. S. Fish and Wildlife



Service is concerned, the fact that we are willing to downgrade the alligator, to change its management system and protection in certain areas, indicates our willingness to sponsor this kind of move to amend the convention to allow international trade in alligator hides that are taken within this system, that are legal hides from those areas where taking is authorized, so I think it is fair to say that we will be behind such a move.

The timing of it is a questionable thing. Certainly it can come up at the first meeting of the contracting parties, which may be sometime in the fall, middle to end of 1976.

MR. JONES: Could you give us some comment, Rick, about this federal license that the buyers and fabricators are going to have to have, in other words, where do you get it, when can you get it, how much does it cost, and so forth?

MR. PARSONS: The federal license will be issued under our permit and license regulations, which is standard for all licenses issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are familiar to our agents in this area and our regional people



in this area. We have a standard application form which hopefully is a lot easier to fill out than the earlier one. The special provisions and conditions of this license are listed in the proposal and I think anyone who is interested in becoming a buyer, tanner or fabricator under license by us can with fair certainty rely on the kind of material that is presented in the proposal.

Now the proposal is always subject to change at the time we issue final regulations. I seriously doubt that there will be great changes in it. I would suggest that for anyone who is interested in entering this category that they start looking at it now. I have indicated that we would be willing, with the state's cooperation and assistance, to provide some liaison, some help, to those people who want to apply for licenses, to explain to them what is needed and to go over this with them.

The biggest problem we have in processing permits and licenses is that the original application comes into us in such a form that we need to go back to the person for more information.



It is simply not complete enough, and when you consider the delays in the mail, going back and forth this way even once can cause quite a delay in the issuance of the permit.

The permit may not be applied for until the regulations are in effect, but if everything has been done essentially up until that time, and assuming that the changes, if any, would be minimal in that portion of the regulations, then anybody who is interested would be all set to go at the time the regulations came into effect as far as applying for permit. Normally our turnaround time for processing of permit application, which essentially is what this is, is about thirty days. Now this can be done faster if we put some pressure on and put a few extra people on processing these applications. From what I have gathered, I don't see that we will have a lot of applications, maybe a dozen, I am not sure, so it won't be a massive problem.

The fee, as I mentioned, as far as I understand it, will be \$25. The permits will probably be valid for a two-year period, and they will



be renewable at the end of those two years, so essentially it will be a license to be in business, a continuing license to be in business in one of these categories.

MR. THOMPSON: I have several questions and also a comment to make. First of all, I would like to compliment the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Interior Department for the interest that you have shown in the alligator. It certainly has been a turnabout from some of our previous encounters with your office. I for one want to compliment you. In fact, I see an engagement and probably a wedding down the road. It looks like we are getting together on a lot of things. I am extremely satisfied and pleased with this attitude and I want to tell you.

MR. PARSONS: Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to point out several things, too, and I would like your comments after I make these points, if you do have any on them.

Many, I might say a major portion of the people who are buying the alligator hides have at



previous times had convictions or are under indictment at the present time for violations of game laws or fur laws or hide laws, et cetera, which I understand is one of the criteria, that they must not have had these. I think yesterday, maybe if you will comment again, you said something about if they had paid their debt to society, they would be eligible. I merely point this out for the record and for this fact, that if we don't have the necessary number of buyers, processors, tanners, manufacturers, et cetera, the price of the alligator hide will go from high to very, very low. The interim period, if a person buys the hides and waits until they are delisted where they can be traded in international trade could be quite lengthy. This could cause them to reduce their price, for which I would not blame them. I would not want to buy something and expect it to sell several years or a year later and bear the expense of storing it for this time on a gamble of being able to or not being able to sell this hide. This is a great problem.

I would also like to point out to you



that there are many other areas, particularly in the state of Louisiana -- I know very little of the other states -- that are fast becoming to be moved from the endangered over to the threatened area. To give you an example, and I think I am 100 percent correct here, at our office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, we receive an average of one call per day every day of the year in reference to depredation or annoyance of an alligator, in maybe downtown Baton Rouge and the fringe areas, which indicates to me, I am merely pointing this out, that the alligator is spreading in Louisiana. There are many, many areas that I know now that are having a lot of trouble with alligators.

I would like to urge, and this may not be directed to you directly but to you and others, whomever it fits, that we immediately take steps with your concurrence or through your office to remove the alligator and put him on the deleted list or take him out of the appendix, one or two, whatever category it is, so that he can be traded in interstate commerce. I would like to recommend that this process be started by mail, which appears



to me would be something like a year sooner than possibly if we wait for the convention to meet, possibly the last part of 1976, which again adds the storage time of hides and we will have probably another season of alligator hunting next year, and I would like to see this done or started immediately. From your notes I note that it will take maybe four or five months to accomplish this if at that time.

Personally, I think that if you folks, or whoever makes the correspondence with the other nations, point out our problem, I see no reason for them to have any animosity or any feeling that we would be trying to get ahead of new nations coming into the treaty, if this is properly pointed out, and I would like to caution to make sure that this is done.

These are some of the things. Would you comment on these, please?

MR. PARSONS: O. K. As far as licenses to applicants who have been convicted, the proposed regulations require a person to supply us with information, a statement, it says "detailing any



convictions or civil penalties under state or federal law for taking or trafficking in wildlife within the previous five years". Other regulations which don't appear in this proposal but other Fish and Wildlife regulations that govern the issuance of permits do provide that if a person has been convicted of a criminal violation or a civil penalty that relates to the thing for which they are applying, then we may refuse to issue a permit for that person, and it is a matter of judgment on our part as to how relevant what they did in the past is to what they are doing presently.

We had one instance where a person well known to us lied to us on a permit application in a substantial area. He was convicted of that and at the second trial -- the trial went twice, the first conviction was overturned and he was tried again. At the first trial he perjured himself and he was convicted of perjury charges the second time around. We would have a lot of hesitation in our minds about issuing a permit to that fellow!

Yesterday we detailed some -- we don't have any set guidelines on this, but certainly I



think it is fair to say that if a person is presently under indictment for a crime directly related to this, for illegal trafficking in alligators, for instance, I don't think there is much of any way that we could issue him a permit. If the person is still on probation, still serving his term or on probation for a similar violation, I think we would find it very difficult to issue a permit.

What we stated yesterday was that if a person had been convicted in the past, had "paid his debt to society", we wouldn't look upon that with the same kind of disfavor that we would the others. Obviously it would be an element to consider, to look at the particular application, the particular person. I think that is a fair assessment of how we would utilize this. So, it is not an absolute rule that anyone who had ever been convicted of a violation in this area would not be able to obtain a permit or a license, but we would take a look at it and make a judgment on it with those kinds of guidelines.

In regard to the alligator becoming more populous in areas of this state, I am sure that that



is happening in areas of some other states. I want to make it clear there are two kinds of delisting. The kind we are talking about here is under the control of the federal government and it doesn't have any relationship to the treaty. If the state wanted to delist certain other populations of alligators in the southeast or other parts of the state, the state is welcome to suggest that to us the same way they did for the three southwestern parishes, by petition as provided under these regulations to the department and they would be considered likewise. The same would go in Texas or Florida or anywhere else.

The treaty is an entirely different matter. We could delist it completely from this and it would still be on the treaty, or we could move it down from the treaty and leave it alone here. The two don't necessarily go together. However, I would say the fact that it is being moved from our endangered category to the threatened category lends some weight.

Now the convention itself, I looked it up and I can give you more exact times on that, for



this mail procedure to change the convention requires that a party may propose an amendment and may send this to the secretariat body, which happens to reside in Switzerland, that takes care of it. The secretariat then communicates the proposal to all the other parties, and any party has sixty days to comment on this proposal, so that is sixty days right there.

The secretariat then takes these replies which it has received and sends its own recommendations out and sends this out again on the circuit. If no objection to the amendment is received within thirty days -- so that is sixty plus thirty, ninety -- then the thing goes into effect ninety days after that, so ninety and ninety is 180, that's six months, would be the minimal period.

If there is an objection, there is then a voting procedure. If a certain number of parties do not, I think it is two-thirds of the parties have to vote, and if not, the whole thing is thrown into the next meeting of the parties. If two-thirds of them vote, then I think it takes a majority to bring the thing into effect. Now



that will take several months longer for the voting procedure. It is a very complex procedure, but it is better than provided in most treaties, believe me. Most treaties don't have any provision for it. You have to really move heaven and earth to get any changes to the treaty.

So, I would say a minimum of six months, even if you started today, to move this thing off the list, under these procedures. Obviously I think it will take longer.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K., that is what I am urging that you do, that you start the wheels rolling on that six-months period right now, and I would like to also ask our Director and our personnel to contact our Congressional delegation and see that they will lend you any assistance which they might be able --

MR. PARSONS: I would suggest that the place to start it is here in this state, and that the state communicate formally with the President at this point in time. We don't have any formally appointed agency under this thing, under this treaty, and ask us to do such a thing. That is



where I suggest the ball start, and then we will keep it rolling.

MR. THOMPSON: My recommendation now, to make it crystal clear, I understand the deleted list as set forth by the United States, but I am talking about the international, so let me point out once again to you, and this will probably overlap, I see a great problem in the price that the trapper will get for his 'gator hides this year, due to -- and I am told this -- the fact that the major portion of the people who handle the 'gator have such violations as you spoke of that would deny them permits. Some of them have paid their debt. In fact, probably the largest single factor in setting the price in the United States would be one gentleman, and I don't recall his name, in New York who at present has some type of litigation or violation pending against him who would be a contributing factor to the purchase of the alligator hide, who in all probability will not receive a license. I also point out to you that our major buyer that increased the price to make it a profitable event was a gentleman from



Paris, a firm from Paris in France, and I want to be sure that you understand now I am speaking of the international when I speak of deletion, and I also understand and would like for you to point out again that even after it is deleted in these areas, or however the terminology is, that my understanding is that you will still, your office will still have control over the 'gator hide inasmuch as it will have to be properly identified as to where it was taken in reference to the look-alikes.

We won't be completely free of your office when we set alligator seasons and traffic and trade.

MR. PARSONS: So at least if we are not married, we will be living together for a long time! (Laughter)

MR. THOMPSON: Well, that's the way they do it now, anyhow!

I would like also to get one more comment from you. Do you concur with our recommendations from Dick Yancey that this 30-day season is enough or not enough or just about right, or what is your



concurrence? I think it is 29 days it figures out.

MR. PARSONS: I can't make any comment on the length of the season. That is dependent on the situation here and the biology and that is his problem, not mine.

MR. THOMPSON: You would have no objection then, if it meets with the proper --

MR. PARSONS: Certainly not. My role in this is to do the best I can to assure that our regulations are in effect to match with your season so that the two things can go along simultaneously.

MR. THOMPSON: I think we pointed out to you yesterday a problem that we have in setting a season, and it is most important that we set this season today, and I think Jerry Jones is going to make a motion to that effect, that we set a season, and make you aware again that time is of the essence due to the fact that, as I am told by the biologists, the first cold snap which generally comes sometime in October, could possibly come before the end of our season, that the alligator doesn't necessarily hibernate but that he becomes dormant in his feeding habits, and the major way



of taking a 'gator is with the hook and line, and so when he is no longer hungry or exercising this option, that even though the 'gators come out every warm sunny day and the average man out in the marsh looks out and he says, "Oh, look, there is the alligator, there is an alligator," the only way it can be taken after the cold weather has started or the major way is with the rifle or gun, and that the baiting with the hook would no longer be effective. It would be so reduced that it would be impracticable to really be trapping the 'gator.

This is what I would like to make crystal clear again to you so that you will know the importance of the speed that we need in having this completely authorized on the 20th day of September.

MR. BERRY: The 15th would be better.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, we would rather have the 15th but we will never get that. He has already told us that because of the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am awfully happy that you brought that out because one of the things I worry about is the fact that setting this season so late or as late as it might be, it could be up



in October, would result in a very small catch, and someone might interpret that to mean that we do not have a surplus of alligators, when actually the only thing that has caused us not to be able to harvest the proper number of alligators is the fact that the season didn't get away in time. I would like for that not to be construed as a shortage of alligators or shortage of population.

Do we have any more questions by the Commission? If we don't, I am going to open questioning to the audience. Do any of you people have questions?

MR. GEORGE YARBROUGH: From your conversation I understood that you had to petition to get these other parishes off the threatened into the unlisted. Now how do you go about that procedure and how long does it take?

MR. PARSONS: It took a long time the first time you did it. Now that we have been through it once, if this is successful, it shouldn't take as long. What would be required is that the state would have to petition us. Actually, anybody can petition us, but in this case I would assume it



would be the state, and present material, biological evidence that in fact in this particular area which we are discussing that the alligator should be given a different status than endangered. Our biologists would then look over this material and would make a finding that there was substantial evidence here that something ought to be done.

Our normal procedure then is to publish a notice in the Federal Register, letting the world know that we are considering making this change. If this were to involve more than one state, which it probably wouldn't in this particular case, we would notify the governors of those states and they would each get ninety days in which to comment. Otherwise, they would probably allow thirty to sixty days, usually sixty days, for the public to put in any information or commentary they wished to have.

At the end of that period we would then make a rule-making proposal to change the status of this particular population of alligators and since, when this goes into effect, we will have the entire structure erected, the house will be built, as it



were, all we have to do is refurbish one of the rooms in the house, it won't take nearly as long or be nearly as complicated to do that.

We would make a rule-making proposal that would be open for comment for sixty days and then subject to whatever comment we got, the thing would then go into effect at the end of that period. So, our normal procedure would take twice times sixty days, 120 days for the normal procedure.

We don't necessarily go through this advance notification every single time. It depends on how controversial the material is, how much material we have. A lot of times the purpose for this initial go-around, for letting people know we are considering making a rule like this, is to get information and to allow a feedback period. So, either it would be the larger of these two periods, either a period of four months, basically, or a shorter period of about half that time.

MR. YARBROUGH: In other words, if any of these other parishes want a season another year, they should go to work on it now?

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to suggest



that you contact the Commission and through the Commission the Governor, and I believe you will find that you have all the help you want. Am I correct, gentlemen?

MR. PARSONS: Definitely.

THE CHAIRMAN: That would be the proper procedure. Let your desires be known to the Commission through our Director.

MR. YARBROUGH: Thank you very much.

MR. WILLE: I most certainly appreciate the effort you have put forth and I would also like to echo Mr. Thompson's praises on your presentation. I think it was very well presented. I think you did your homework very well.

MR. PARSONS: Thank you.

MR. WILLE: And I think we may enter into an engagement, anyway; I don't think we will ever get into a wedding situation with the federal government.

As I appreciate it, in these areas that we have, and I would hope that you would appreciate it and take it back to Washington with you, that the people in Louisiana in these southern parishes



do have an alligator problem. They are well aware of the problem and biologically I am sure that we can find sound evidence to release some of these other parishes into this other category other than the endangered species. I would like for you to carry back this, that the people of Louisiana are not trying to make the alligator extinct by any means. I know you have a lot of do-gooders that as soon as the name alligator is mentioned and because it was put on the endangered species, you do get a lot of pressure from all over the country, saying those Cajuns or whatever they may want to call us are, you know, just trying to eliminate the alligator in Louisiana, and I would appreciate it, and I think that most of you people up there are well aware of the fact that we do have a problem. We have a bad alligator problem.

MR. PARSONS: It may be interesting to you that on May 1 we hosted a meeting in which we invited all the states that were in the alligator's range and a number of conservation organizations that are based in Washington, in which we laid out the outline of this proposal before it was published.



I would say, by and large, most of these conservation organizations had no substantial opposition to this proposal. They thought that it was well based in biology and in wildlife management and that it was an appropriate move, notwithstanding the fact the alligator is indeed a symbol of endangered species. That is not to say we won't receive opposition, but we did run this by these people and I would say our reception was pretty favorable.

MR. WILLE: Anyone that feels this way, we would be happy to box one up and send it to them for their backyard.

MR. BERRY: I would like to say this, Rick, I also appreciate the fact that you guys came down and prepared this presentation and we appreciate your cooperation. I am not quite sure what you are up to yet; you have been a little too nice, you have scared me! I am not really sure in my own mind you have got any business meddling in our state's affairs which we can manage ourselves, but thank you, anyhow.

MR. PARSONS: We try not to let too many people know what we are up to; that's dangerous!

(Laughter)



THE CHAIRMAN: If you don't mind, gentlemen, I think we will get back to the audience. I had invited them for their input. Do we have anyone else who would like to ask a question who would like to come to the mike?

MR. THOMPSON: May I say something before John Paul Crane takes the microphone?

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to let John Paul Crane give you that permission. If you have two minutes --

MR. THOMPSON: Well, let me take up most of that two minutes and tell you who John Paul Crane is. In my estimation he is one of the foremost alligator raisers, producers, landowners in probably the state of Louisiana along with the corporations that have the land. John Paul has a tremendous knowledge of the alligator, the working alligator in the marsh, the way that they exist, and I had asked John a little bit earlier if he would comment on particularly the cannibalism of the 'gator and what is happening by the overpopulation of 'gators in your area, and I am sure that the federal boys, all of you, Rick, are aware



of this. I just would like it to be brought out for those who do not know of it.

MR. JOHN PAUL CRANE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I just wanted to thank the gentleman, too. Of course, in many of our areas in Cameron Parish we have reached a saturation point of alligators and we are at a point now where we will be going backwards. We are having the cannibalism and, of course, if we can't go ahead and have something done and harvest some of these big old bull animals and so on, we are going to go backwards, plus the fact that a lot of our landowners are going to lose interest and our trappers are going to lose interest. When we can have those trappers out there and they are making a little something each year, that is better than five game wardens, and we need to get the show on the road in some kind of way and get this animal turned into money that we can put in our pockets. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: John, would you point out and explain to the people here in the audience as well as us what happens, when you say a bull alligator, what is a bull alligator, how big is it,



what does he do.

MR. CRANE: Well, of course, you have got bulls all sizes, but those old big bulls from eight, ten, twelve, thirteen feet long, they consume supposedly ten percent of their body weight per week, and a little four and five-foot alligator and even a six-footer, they get to be pretty good food, you know, for them.

MR. THOMPSON: In other words they kill them and eat them, they are cannibalistic.

MR. CRANE: Oh, I have seen it many, many times, they kill off the small ones.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Anyone else in the audience? Any other comments or questions from the Commission? All right, sir, come to the mike, please, sir.

MR. HARVEY KLEBER: My name is Harvey Kleber. Me and my brother been raising alligators for twenty years, and every time we get to a point where we can do something, the federal regulations and the Louisiana regulations just cut us out.

I believe personally the only way you



are going to have alligators is if you raise them. If you don't raise alligators, you are not going to have alligators. They are just like a cow, a pig, anything.

What is going to ruin the alligator population is people. People are going to ruin the alligators. When the population is going to get too heavy, what you rather going to have in the marsh, a wheatfield or a grain field, or you going to rather have the alligator. I think personally if they would get the regulations off the alligator farmers, you would have more alligators than you know what to do with. We have ten or fifteen acres and we have close to 10,000 alligators on ten acres, and here we are, we can't get rid of our alligators.

MR. THOMPSON: How many?

MR. KLEBER: We have got close to 10,000 on ten acres, and we can't get rid of one alligator.

MR. JONES: I think he will probably respond to that and I wish he would.

MR. KLEBER: Mr. Parsons got them on the threatened list instead of the same list as Cameron.



MR. JONES: He has something special for the farmers.

MR. THOMPSON: Do you feed these 'gators?

MR. KLEBER: Sure, we feed them.

MR. THOMPSON: What do you feed them?

MR. KLEBER: We feed them chicken from the hatchery. We feed them from the slaughterhouses, we feed them dead cows, anything we can get hold of. I mean, they are not particular what they eat. (Laughter) But right now, the way they have all this set up, they are out to destroy the alligator, not to raise the alligator.

MR. JONES: I think he said he had something in there for you. Isn't that right, Rick?

MR. KLEBER: I think he has them in threatened.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, he has a special deal for farmers. Mr. Parsons.

MR. PARSONS: The classifications of alligators, endangered, threatened or delisted, apply to animals as they occur in the wild, not as they occur in captivity. We have proposed to deal with the captive alligator question by treating it



as a look-alike, in which case it is treated as if it were threatened. Being threatened, permits are available under the special purpose category, and permits could be available to alligator farmers under that category.

As I said, this is a proposal. This is probably the area of our regulations which needs the most work at this point in time and needs the most suggestions in the way of how we do and what it looks like, and if you are able, you know, to translate from this into English, I would, you know, urge you to read it and work with the state people and give us some suggestions on how best to do the job. The essential idea again is that we need control over what happens to those things when they go in commerce.

MR. KLEBER: May I ask one more thing? To me, it looks like the alligator raisers need the incentive to raise alligators. They don't give us no incentive to raise alligators. They have plenty of people there around Pontchatoula want to raise alligators, but every time they put a few in the pond, they either come get them or



tell them they can't raise the alligators or nothing. I have people call me from all over the United States, asking me about selling them alligators, and I can't sell my alligators.

MR. THOMPSON: Where is this?

MR. KLEBER: In Pontchatoula.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, you are out of the three-parish area there --

MR. KLEBER: That's right, correct.

MR. THOMPSON: -- but I don't believe you quite understand it. Under this --

MR. KLEBER: I understand, I understand what he did. I understand the situation.

MR. THOMPSON: Now you can apply for a permit and you will be able to sell them.

MR. KLEBER: Correct, but you see, the idea is, you just don't raise alligators in one year. You have got to raise alligators over a period of twenty or thirty years.

MR. THOMPSON: But I want you to understand that now you have a vehicle or a means to sell and trade and kill and cure your hides of your alligators.



MR. KLEBER: Correct, but that is what I am telling you. As far as the market, we cannot supply the whole market. No one person can, but to get alligator farmers started, you got to give them a reason to get started, and every year they make a new law. I know three years ago they come around the house there and anybody didn't have a license, the man had to get rid of the alligator or he couldn't keep them. I didn't necessarily mean you all. I was just talking about the whole -- that is what I was telling you, when they come down to the people or the alligator, the alligator got to go. He ain't going to kill the people just to keep an alligator!

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me see if I can help you with your problem, sir. I believe if you would ask Mr. Allen Ensminger, he would help you fill out the proper forms to get permission to farm your alligators and dispose of them.

MR. KLEBER: Well, I believe he will. Mr. Ensminger been helping me now for about ten years that I know of.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, see Mr. Ensminger



and make out the proper request.

MR. KLEBER: But we still have the alligators!

MR. ENSMINGER: About the only response I can make there is we have got bureaucrats in Louisiana, too! But, of course, Harvey and Robert Kleber are the biggest alligator farmers in the United States. There are some alligator farmers in Florida that almost equal these two young men's activity, but they have been extremely understanding. They have been very patient and consequently they have spent a hell of a lot of money on alligators with very little income.

They did harvest a small number of alligator skins in the '72 and '73 seasons and sold them at the time the wild alligators were harvested, but this was just a nominal effort on their part as far as their expense.

We have pointed out repeatedly to the Fish and Wildlife Service in the promulgation of these regulations that these alligator farmers must have some help and relief. Their Congressman, Henson Moore from the Florida parishes, is very



cognizant of their problem and has been in very close communication with the Office of Endangered Species, as well as John Breaux from southwest Louisiana, and we certainly assure these people that we are going to continue to work toward helping them with their alligator problem just as we are with our wild alligator population.

MR. YANCEY: What can they do this season?

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, of course, as Rick has pointed out here, regulations will be worked with. I understand that a permit will be forthcoming and they probably will be able to handle alligator transactions at the end of this alligator season. Is this correct, Rick?

MR. PARSONS: I can hardly refuse, can I? Let me make one thing clear. This is probably the most difficult area in these regulations as far as any single particular problem, partially because of the structure of the law, to work out a reasonable solution. The proposal we have would allow people to seek permits at the time the regulations go into effect, and they should be able to market hides under those permits during the legal season.



This is what we plan to propose. There are alternative ways of handling it within the regulations and some areas we have to look at very closely.

MR. WILLE: Rick, I had a question a while ago I was going to ask you. Don't you think that that portion of the regulation while you are here and you are asking input on it, these farmers certainly do deserve some special consideration after they have raised these alligators and they are just lying there and they have a lot of money tied up and can't draw it out?

Also, while you are looking at the regulation, don't you think it would be fair to take a look at the regulations and to maybe write in the regulations where the permit might be available for someone who would want to go into the alligator raising business?

MR. PARSONS: The way the regulations are structured is a pretty loose and flexible arrangement. It would not preclude anybody from going into the business.

MR. WILLE: I see.

MR. PARSONS: A lot would depend on how



he started.

MR. WILLE: It was my understanding when the gentleman came up here that it was very hard to get into the business. What you are saying in essence is if they want to get into the business, they can apply for a permit and raise alligators. Is that right?

MR. PARSONS: Yes, I am saying it is possible. The purpose for the permit is so that we can handle each case on an individual basis and look at the facts of that case. I wouldn't see any reason why it would preclude someone from going into the business. If he wanted to go out in the wild in areas where the alligators were endangered and get his initial stock by culling a whole area of alligators, I think we would look askance at that. On the other hand, if he bought breeding stock from other farmers, that would be a different matter entirely.

We have got a lot of different animal breeders of animals that are now on the endangered species list. They are in the same category. It ranges from wolves to leopards to tigers and God



knows what else, but those are the ones that we know about, so it is not a problem that is unique to alligators as far as the Endangered Species Act kind of having a man stuck with a lot of things on his hands that he can't move in interstate commerce any longer. They can be sold within the state under any circumstances. The federal law does not go to that and there have been a number of such transactions from some of these breeders, but it is not satisfactory and we are aware of that.

That is why I indicated our overall solution would be to attack the problem of all captive wildlife which happen to be endangered species at one time, everything from peregrine falcons to wolves. We recognize the problem that is here and we have made an attempt at a way to treat it. I do think it is the most difficult area we have, but we are aware of it. We are aware of the problem and we intend to have some way to handle it.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no other discussion, we are ready for the motion, Jerry.

MR. JONES: I make a motion that we



establish a season for the taking of alligators from September 20 to October 19, 1975, in Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes under the same guidelines we had for the last season.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Thompson, that we set a season for the harvesting of alligators from September 20 to October 19. Any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Louisiana's efforts to manage the resident population of alligators for the past fifteen years has substantially increased the total population, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild



Life and Fisheries Commission has, during 1972 and 1973, successfully demonstrated that a periodic commercial harvest, based upon comprehensive population inventories, can be closely controlled, and

WHEREAS, data collected during the 1972 and 1973 seasons and from aerial inventory during July, 1975, reflects that the seasons were beneficial in all respects, and

WHEREAS, population levels in the marshes of Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu Parishes now warrant the establishment and continuation of an experimental season in this region of the state, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined from the past two experimental seasons that the system developed for conducting the harvest of animals through a rigidly controlled set of regulations worked out extremely well, and



WHEREAS, no evidence was found that the opening of an experimental season encouraged illegal killing of these reptiles, and

WHEREAS, alligators are a renewable resource and should be managed on a sustained yield basis, thereby providing economic incentive for preserving marshlands, and

WHEREAS, the Alligator Committee of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissions has promulgated an alligator recovery plan for Louisiana and the southeastern United States, and

WHEREAS, the director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to remove the American alligator from endangered or threatened status entirely in Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu Parishes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that another experimental alligator



season be hereby established in accordance with the following regulations; no exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes and/or Endangered Species Act of 1973:

1. Open area - Coastal marshes including converted marshland. Alligators may be taken in Cameron Parish; in Vermilion Parish south of State Highway 14; in Calcasieu Parish south of Inter-state Highway 10 and State Highway 108 to the junction with State Highway 27, thence south and west of a line between Highway 27 and Calcasieu Locks, then south of Intracoastal Canal to the Cameron Parish line. An estimated 95,000 alligators are present in this area outside the refuges. No more than eight



percent of this population may be taken during the season.

2. Harvest Season - The open season shall run for a thirty-day period beginning on Saturday, September 20, 1975, and continue through Sunday, October 19, 1975.

Size - No alligators under four feet in length may be taken.

3. Harvest methods - Alligators may be taken only during the daylight hours, between one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirements of the Commission will be considered illegal. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect



nesting female populations.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take, transport or sell alligators or their skins. The fee for the license is \$25.00 per year and is non-transferable. In order to obtain the license, he must have resided in Louisiana for one year preceding the season. He must complete application forms provided by the Commission and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner to hunt alligators on the specified property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided. Applications must be submitted between the dates August 25 and September 19, 1975. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has satisfactorily



complied with the above requirements. An exact copy of the approved application form must be carried while in the act of hunting alligators. A fur buyer license or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. Persons or firms entering alligators and/or parts in interstate commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed in accordance with State and Federal Regulations.

5. Tagging. In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Commission, and have in his possession while hunting, official tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator skin immediately upon taking. Numbered tags and tagging pliers will be issued to license holders for a sum of \$5.00.



The tags must be attached approximately six inches from the tip of the tail end of the skin. The tag must remain attached to the skin until finally processed by the fabricator. It shall be illegal to possess alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags attached. Official alligator tags will be issued only to alligator hunters and only to those who have authorized applications. The number of tags will be issued on the basis of the area and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates. Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of the technician. No more than this fixed number of tags will be issued. Each official tag will bear a characteristic number and a duplicate



tab, and the tag numbers issued to each hunter will be recorded. Unused tags must be returned to the Commission. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced but must be reported. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders.

Licensed alligator farmers or breeders will be issued permits to kill and skin their alligators but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators. No alligators on breeding farms may be killed without such a permit. Tagging validation is required on skins taken. Alligator farmers and breeders must comply with Federal Regulations governing captive raised alligators.

7. Harvest Rates. Only eight percent of overall population in open season



area may be taken. Tags will be issued on the following basis:

Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes -

Brackish Marsh, one per 400 acres;

Intermediate Marsh, one per 100 acres; Fresh, one per 150 acres;

Pump-off district, regardless of marsh type, one per 500 acres.

Vermilion Parish - Intermediate Marsh, one per 100 acres; Fresh, one per 500 acres; Brackish marsh, one per 150 acres; Pump-off District, 1 per 500 acres.

8. Validation of alligator skins -
- All alligator skins taken during the experimental alligator season shall be checked and a second tag fixed by personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at the headquarters of the Rockefeller Refuge on October 20, 21, 22, 1975. Any skin not processed by this validation system on one of



these dates shall be considered to be illegal. The holders of alligator hunting licenses must bring their skins to Rockefeller for validation on one of these three dates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Special dressing instructions will also be verified, and any skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Unused tags will be returned at this time. Validation tags must remain attached to the skin until finally processed by the fabricator.

9. Shipment. All raw alligator skins shipped out-of-state must bear official shipping tags provided by the Commission. Forms provided must be filled out completely and returned to the Commission within 15 days following the close of each season. No raw alligator skins may



be shipped from the state after sixty days following the close of the season without first obtaining a permit from the Commission. Raw alligator skins and parts transported in the course of a commercial activity, shipped or transported within the state must be labeled with tags issued by the Commission describing the number of skins/parts, the consignor, shipping point, consignee and destination. All parts of alligators, other than the raw skins, shipped or transported within or out of the state must be clearly labeled with the license number of the alligator hunter and the number of the official tag which was attached to the alligator skin.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administrative responsibility for conducting this season shall rest with J. Burton Angelle, Director of the Louisiana



Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to say one thing, Mr. Parsons. We appreciate a great deal your coming here because I believe I understand and have tried to understand your problems better than we did in the past, and I hope that our input and our questions have helped you understand the problems of the Louisiana alligator hunter and the Louisiana alligator farmer much better. I want to commend you on your attitude on the questions we have asked, and if we have asked any questions that seemed to encroach upon your authority, it was inadvertent, we did not mean it to be that way.

MR. PARSONS: I would like to thank you all and say that I have learned a lot by coming down here and I think this kind of discussion is the only way we can do business, and I really think I have a much better appreciation for what the problems are, although we worked largely through your state people and I think we were aware of all of these things, and if we can continue this, I think we can solve a lot of problems that face both of us. I appreciate the opportunity to come



down here and speak to you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me say this as Chairman of the Commission. We have some of the finest and most knowledgeable people that I know of anywhere in the United States working with this Commission and if you care to visit down here for further information and contact our Director or our Assistant Director, Mr. Yancey, I am sure provision will be made for you to visit and pick up any knowledge you need. Thank you very much.

Mr. Yancey, I will turn it back over to you.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Luttrell, I wasn't quite following you, but I was fixing to make an invitation. I think you just did. To invite you while you are here, if you all have an extra day or two and you would like to go into the marsh and see some of these things firsthand, we would be glad to arrange for Allen and Dick and some of them to take you. If you are of that desire, if you will communicate with Allen or Dick, we would be most pleased to have you and host you and put you in the marsh.



MR. PARSONS: It may not be on this visit, but as long as I won't be known as the federal bureaucrat who didn't return, I will be more than happy to accept your invitation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: O. K., at the next Commission meeting I presume that the Commission will set the detailed regulations for the hunt. Now, while Mr. Parsons is here, I would suggest that Mr. Kleber and Mr. Ensminger meet with him and perhaps they could make a recommendation that would be forwarded in now, because as he said, they are not locked in cement with these proposed regulations, and maybe this wording in this thing could be adjusted somewhat to cover the problem that they have there, because they are going to take into consideration up until September 8 comments and recommendations on changes on the regulations published in the Federal Register at this time.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Are we going to advance any recommendations on these regulations?

MR. YANCEY: We are going to have to, to



comply with our state register problem, going to Gerald Martinez, and then the Commission will act on the details of these regulations at the August meeting.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: My question was, are we providing any further input into the comments that the Bureau will be receiving at this time?

MR. YANCEY: So far as I know, we have no plans to offer any comments.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Allen, Ted, are we going to provide any further recommendations for consideration in the Register?

MR. ENSMINGER: Not that I am aware of at this time. I am sure these regulations, as we read them and try to digest them, we will see other things, but as far as I know, no.

THE CHAIRMAN: This wouldn't be the proper time to suggest the extension of the area?

MR. ENSMINGER: No, that comes under a different entity, a separate entity.

MR. YANCEY: O. K., we have a request from the Catahoula Parish Police Jury to make a change in the deer season that has already been



established by the Commission for that area. Basically, they are asking that the still hunting season on deer that is scheduled from November 1 to November 21 be cancelled and that that number of days be added onto the last segment of the deer season. There is a still hunt and then there are two separate segments for dog hunting allowed up there. Of course, this would constitute an absolute major change in the deer hunting regulations in Areas 1 and 2, and we would recommend that the Commission make no change at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Is there any discussion?

MR. WILLE: Yes. I am going to make a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. WILLE: I am going to make a motion that we do not change any of the regulations. If we can't change for one area, then we should not change for another.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Thompson, that we do not change



regulations in one area since we did not change regulations in another area. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

Dick, you have something else?

MR. YANCEY: Yes, I do. The Commission now has to set the dates for --

MR. THOMPSON: Dick, excuse me a minute. Does that hold true for the next meeting, too? Your motion is for this year?

MR. WILLE: Yes.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Yes, after they are published, we are not going to change them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. YANCEY: It is now time to set the hunting season dates for doves, rails, snipe, gallinule, teal, woodcock --

THE CHAIRMAN: Could I deviate from this for just a second? I have a small thing that needs to be done. Would you mind? With the



permission of the Commission, I would like to deviate from this. Mr. Braud came into the audience after I had introduced our visitors, and I notice he has with him the new executive secretary of the Wildlife Federation. I would like to introduce Mr. Braud now, who is the present president of the Wildlife Federation and ask him to introduce the new secretary.

MR. FRANCIS BRAUD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, Mr. Angelle, members of your staff, ladies and gentlemen. I have to apologize for being late. I had automobile trouble so I had to get Mr. Fontenot to go completely out of his way to come get me and bring me here, and that is the reason why we were late.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mr. William Fontenot, our new executive director, Mr. William Fontenot, and I am sure he will cooperate with any of the organizations in the state that will be concerned with the conservation of our natural resources.

I would like to take a minute, too, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, to say this, that we



concur with the resolution --

MR. THOMPSON: We haven't made it yet. Francis, why don't you stay at the microphone, if you will, and Mr. Wille has this resolution and, as I am acting for Mr. Luttrell, I will call on him to make the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson, we have something else that has come up that makes it necessary that I go along with the hunting seasons and then I will call on Mr. Wille for this special affair. Mr. Braud, have you finished with your introduction?

MR. BRAUD: O. K., we will come back to the resolution.

MR. YANCEY: We have a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service outlining the framework, the bag limits, the number of hunting days on doves, rails, snipe, gallinule, teal and woodcock, and we have to set these hunting season dates at this time. I would like to call on Larry Soileau, biologist with the Game Division, to make the recommendations of the Division in connection with hunting season dates on these species.



THE CHAIRMAN: We will take that now, Mr. Soileau.

MR. SOILEAU: Before making my recommendation for the dove season this year, I would like to briefly review the results of the dove season which we had last year. We had a 70-day season. The state was zoned into two areas, one north of Highway 190 and one south of 190. We had separate seasons. In the northern zone we had a three-way split with one segment, the first segment, beginning on September 1 through the 15, and it was designed to harvest our locally produced doves. We had a season which began on October 12 and ran through November 17, and a final segment, December 21 through January 7.

If you will take a look at this map, you will see that the primary production and harvest area in the September season was in the northeastern part of the state, with a harvest of 211,000 doves. In the southern zone, the primary harvest area is the southwestern part, with a total harvest of 459,000 doves. In the southern zone, doves are not present in huntable numbers in September.



Therefore we have a two-way split, with the first split beginning on October 12 last year, and then a final segment which includes the Christmas holidays and allows the harvest of the final push of doves which come in late winter.

Overall in the northern zone, we killed 758,000 doves, in the southern zone, 597,000, for a total harvest of about 1.3 million doves.

The season that the Game Division would like to recommend this year tracks that of last year. The Fish and Wildlife Service framework allows a season set from September 1 through January 15. If you will take a look at the calendar over at the other end, you will notice that September 1 falls on a Monday, and the framework will not allow us to back up through August 30, which we would probably like to do. Therefore, we are recommending that the first segment of the dove season in the northern zone open on Saturday, September 6, and run through Sunday, September 21, for a total of 16 days.

The second segment, north zone, October 11 through November 16, for a total of 37 days,



and a final segment in the northern zone, opening Saturday, December 20, through January 5, for a total of 17 days, giving a total season in the north zone of 70 days.

In the south zone, that area of the state south of Highway 190, we recommend a season opening on Saturday, October 11, running through November 30, for a total of 51 days, and the second segment opening on Saturday, December 20, through January 7, for a total of 19 days, giving a total in the south zone of 70 days.

The bag limit, of course, and possession limit will be the same as it has been in the past, 12 and 24 in possession.

MR. THOMPSON: I move that we accept the recommendations presented by Mr. Soileau.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.



MR. SOILEAU: Next I have the framework and bag limit on rails. The framework is from September 1 through January 20, with a bag limit of 15, 30 in possession. We have 70 consecutive full days and we recommend Saturday, November 1, running for 70 days, through January 9.

MR. JONES: I move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Unanimously approved. Take the next one, please, sir.

MR. SOILEAU: O. K. Woodcock, we have a framework, September 1 through February 28. Bag limit of 5, possession limit of 10, for 65 days, and we recommend Saturday, December 6, running through February 8, a total of 65 days.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. JONES: So move.



MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones,
seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Unanimously approved. Take the next one,
please.

MR. SOILEAU: O. K. Next we have snipe.
We have a framework, September 1 through February
28, bag limit of 8, 16 in possession, for 65 days,
and we recommend Saturday, December 6, through
February 8.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recom-
mendation.

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson,
seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Unanimously approved.



MR. SOILEAU: Next we have gallinules. The framework, September 1 through January 20. Bag limit of 15, 30 in possession, 70 consecutive days. We are recommending September 20 through November 28.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. SOILEAU: Finally, we have a teal season to set, and this teal season the framework is September 1 through September 30. The bag limit is 4, with 8 in possession, and we have here a chart of the monthly teal population estimates in Louisiana from 1969 to '74, with the framework outlined in red, and the Game Division recommends that the season open on Saturday, September 20,



and run through Sunday, September 28, for a total of nine days.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered. Unanimous. Thank you, Mr. Soileau.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Commission has heard the recommendations from the Game Division for the dove, rail, snipe, gallinule, teal and woodcock seasons, and

WHEREAS, these recommendations fall within the framework as given to the Commission by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the dates selected



seem to be in the best interest of the sportsmen of our state,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission adopt the seasons for these species as recommended by the technical staff of the Game Division.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now I want to explain why we had to break as we did. Mr. Yancey had a very, very important call to be made to Canada and we couldn't wait any longer, and that necessitated me breaking into the resolution.

Now we have a very special communication to be handled by Mr. Wille, and if we may, at this time I will call on Mr. Wille to handle that.

MR. WILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to read into the record of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission meeting at this date the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and all Louisiana sportsmen were shocked and saddened by the recent



death of Dan Greene, Outdoor Writer for the Times-Picayune, and

WHEREAS, the Commission would be remiss in not pausing quietly in its deliberations and retreating momentarily from its business affairs to honor the memory of the late Dan Greene, console his family and consider his loss,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission declares that:

The late Dan Greene was a dedicated, impartial and fair outdoor writer, a prudent conservationist, an avid sportsman, and the fearless supporter of all Louisiana sportsmen;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission extend to the family of Dan Greene their sympathy for the great personal loss that his death has brought upon them, but encourage them to realize and believe that his death



is not an end but a change to a new eternally happy life.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that in the death of Dan Greene the members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and all Louisiana sportsmen have experienced the earthly demise of a quiet, humble gentleman and a true friend.

MR. FRANCIS BRAUD: The Louisiana Wildlife Federation concurs with this resolution and we will also extend a similar resolution to the family of Dan Greene expressing our sympathy toward his passing. I am Francis Braud, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and we concur with your resolution and we will have one prepared in the same manner. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like, Mr. Braud, to move the adoption of this resolution?

MR. BRAUD: I would like to move the adoption of this resolution on behalf of the sportsmen of Louisiana, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and all the sportsmen of Louisiana. I



so move, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to second it as Chairman of the Commission. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Unanimously adopted.

MR. WILLE: I would like to make available a copy of the resolution to the press, in case they would like a copy.

MR. BRAUD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Braud.
All right, now that brings us down to Mr. Smith.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the first item I have on the agenda is the consideration of bids for a fish holding shed at our Beechwood Fish Hatchery. We are presently enlarging this hatchery and we will need this facility to hold and sort and treat fish for diseases before shipment. At the present time we have \$21,808 approved for construction of the shed. However, the low bid as received by the Facilities Planning Control Office is \$23,654. This leaves us \$1,846 short of meeting the low bid.



Since this facility has just minimum specifications that we think will do the job, we would like to ask that the Director be authorized to enter into a contract with the low bidder, providing the Division of Administration approves the transfer of this \$1,846 out of our current operating budget. I would like to recommend that the Director be authorized to do this.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Jones. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has



available \$24,500 for constructing a fish holding shed at the Beechwood Fish Hatchery at Woodworth, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, only \$21,808 of this amount is available for actual construction, \$2,696 being obligated for architectural fees, et cetera, and

WHEREAS, the low bid submitted for this facility was \$23,654 by Wiggins Gravel Company of Alexandria,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Director to enter into contract with the low bidder for the full amount of \$23,654, providing a request to the Division of Administration to use \$1,846 of current operating funds (1975-76 budget) is approved to furnish this amount.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, our second item concerns Lake Bistineau. This past week we have been involved in some aquatic vegetation surveys



plus some fish population surveys on the lake to bring you the latest information possible on the current status up there.

We haven't had time to prepare charts on the fish population since we just wound up there Friday afternoon with our sampling, but I would like to suggest some things here that are a little haywire on the lake. We find an enlarged bluegill population of the small fish. This is not a good sign in the lake. We also find an increased population of shad. Now there are other items here, such as in our vegetation surveys, and I have a chart which I think you can see.

Overall we had a 27 percent decrease in vegetation from '74 to '75. Now the biggest part of this decrease was in the deeper water, four to eight feet. We had 11 percent decrease in the shallow water, zero to four feet. This is the area that lends itself best to drawdowns. We feel that the turbidity last year, plus the higher water, that we did get the lake down to five feet a couple of times, which has probably caused a shock effect on this vegetation and has reduced the amount from



'74 to '75.

I will go through these charts -- I have four or five of them here -- quickly and show what has happened from year to year. As you will notice, this is the chart with all the colors and it does show where the year of the greatest vegetation problem was. That was in 1974. In 1972 we had areas of severe infestation primarily in the shallow end, and we had some moderate to light infestations, and this was mainly in the deeper water.

The black lines all show the trend-set lines which we conduct annually now with our weed surveys. The lake was not drawn down in '72 or '73. In 1974 the gates were opened but it didn't go down all the way. Now this (indicating) is the 1973 infestation which was an increase over 1972. Our worst year was '74 where we had severe infestations, particularly in the shallow part of the upper end of the lake. We had some severe problems then and it got pretty bad in the lower end next to the dam.

So, even though the degree of infestation



has reduced in 1975, the areas still present a problem in the shallow water, and as a result of this and also some of the fish population information we have, we would recommend that the lake be drawn down again this year, beginning the day after Labor Day, which is September 2, and the gates be closed on January 10, 1976. That would be our recommendation, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Unanimous.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, recent aquatic weed surveys have been conducted on Lake



Bistineau and although they indicate an overall 27 percent reduction in vegetation there remains a severe infestation in the shallow zero to four foot depths, and

WHEREAS, recent fish population surveys indicate a significant increase in gizzard shad which should be controlled by natural predation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission approves the lowering of the water level on Lake Bistineau seven feet, the gates to be opened September 2, 1975 and closed January 10, 1976.

THE CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the end of the regular agenda. I have under other business some things that I want to bring before the Commission, if you don't mind, but before I do that, in order that we can set the duck season in time to meet the desires of the federal boys, we will have our August meeting on the 28th and 29th of August.

Now, the first thing I would like to



bring to your attention is a letter that I received at the Alexandria meeting from a delegation from Jennings. I will just read it:

"Mr. Luttrell, the Mayor of the City of Jennings and the Sheriff of Jeff Davis Parish want the Commission to call upon them at any time during the upcoming stage of gun range development.

"As it was pointed out at the Commission meeting in Alexandria, the development of a gun range does not have to be exorbitant as the Jennings plan will allow anyone to develop a highly qualified gun range for a very low cost output."

This is the part that the Commission needs to consider.

(Continuing) "We would like for the Commission to hold their July or their August meeting in Jennings and the city will make the arrangements. This will also be the Commission's opportunity to see the area firsthand."



Now, gentlemen, you have heard the communication. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, we can run into quite a few problems in moving our meetings from New Orleans. It is very costly as well as the problems of personnel, et cetera, communications, and while I am perfectly in accord with the wish that it would be possible, but I don't think that it is possible unless there is more provocation than presently presented.

MS. PENDLEY: It has already been advertised in the Louisiana Register for the August meeting here. You have to do that two months ahead.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is fine. I have no personal wishes on the matter except that I thought it had to be brought before the Commission, and if it is all right with the Commission, I would like to request that Mr. Angelle answer the letter for me.

Now, I have another thing to bring before the Commission. I would like for you to pay very close attention to this because of its content.



In the last meeting Ms. Doris Falkenheiner came before this Commission and she suggested two resolutions. We set aside the adopting or rejecting of these resolutions until further study could be made. I have made a thorough study, and as far as I can find out with the help of our professional staff, I would like to suggest to you that we cannot accept or go along with the second resolution for the following reason.

I find that in the minutes of 1968 that this Commission -- not the Commission that we have today but the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission -- said this: No. 1, discussing the pumping plant in Concordia Parish. "The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does not oppose a pumping plant and has offered to provide the land required for the location of the site."

No. 2, "The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does not oppose the channel enlargement of the lower 22 miles of Bayou Cocodrie."

For that reason, we would be going against our own policy if we went along with Ms. Falkenheiner's No. 2 resolution, which if any of you care



to, I will read, but in the No. 1 resolution, I see no reason why the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission should not adopt this resolution, as it is good and it does help us. (Reading)

"WHEREAS, the staff of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has assisted the Corps of Engineers in evaluating projects in the Red River backwater area since the early 1950's;

"WHEREAS, the U. S. Wildlife and Fisheries Service in its 1959 report to the Corps of Engineers on the fish and wildlife aspects of the Red River backwater project, a report concurred in by the Commission, recommended the purchase of 12,800 acres to replace the wildlife habitat damaged by the Catahoula Diversion Canal;

"WHEREAS, this damaged wildlife habitat in part occupied the lands of the Saline Wildlife Management Area, owned in trust for the people of Louisiana by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission;

"WHEREAS, Congress on October 27, 1965 authorized the Corps to purchase 12,800 acres as replacement of lost habitat,

"WHEREAS, we are informed that the proposed federal budget for 1976 does not include funds for purchase of the 12,800 acres, and

"THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission urges that the federal budget for 1976 include adequate funds for purchase of the 12,800 acres in Louisiana; and

"IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission solicits the support and affirmative votes of the Louisiana Senatorial and Congressional delegation for these funds.

"Adopted on this 22nd day of July, 1975, at New Orleans, Louisiana.



"Signed, H. Clay Luttrell,
Chairman, J. Burton Angelle, Director."

You have heard the reading of the resolution. Do I have a motion?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry,
seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Adopted unanimously.

Now, gentlemen, did you concur in my assumption that we could not --

MR. THOMPSON: It is my opinion that we just voted not to concur in her resolution with reference to the pump but to concur in her resolution with regard to the mitigation lands.

THE CHAIRMAN: I didn't state but that is the way I would like for it to have been.

MR. THOMPSON: That was my impression of what I was voting on.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that the understanding



of the others? Then that is fine.

MR. BERRY: That is the motion that I made.

MR. JONES: And let it be known that in 1968 when the vote was taken, it was taken upon the recommendation of our professional people.

MR. THOMPSON: Of what?

MR. JONES: Professional people.

MR. THOMPSON: Oh, that is correct.

MR. BERRY: Someone wants to come up and be heard.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. State your name, please, sir.

MR. DUDENHEFER: Milton Dudenhefer, President of East Bank Commercial Fishermen Association. First of all, I would like to thank the Commission for approving this three-area concept that took place at the beginning of the year, setting dates on the shrimping season. On the east side of the river we are having among our best seasons we had in many a year from the change of these dates.

I am here today to ask that you give us



another break in extending the season and also closing areas in the shallow waters where the small white shrimp are located. This would be the marshes, mainly the Louisiana marshes, and leave open or extend the season right on through into the next season. That would be deep waters, including Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, all the main passes, ship channel and areas of that sort. We would like an extension on the season because there is a large amount of brown shrimp still in these areas. Since the brown shrimp and the white season are not in together, they are in separate areas, we feel that you can close some areas and leave other areas open, and this way give the fishermen a chance to further catch these brown shrimp and have a much better season.

I have spoke with Dr. St. Amant in the beginning of the year and we talked about this and I have talked to several biologists and they all agreed with me in the past week that this possibly could be done. This would have to be handled more or less under an emergency situation because the white shrimp just showed up in the last week, and



so this was something that can't be planned a long range ahead of time. You can't set a date on something like this because the shrimp don't have no calendars, I don't believe.

MR. WILLE: We can't come up with a decision until we talk to Dr. St. Amant about this, though.

MR. JONES: Can you define the areas that you are talking about?

MR. DUDENHEFER: The areas that we are asking be closed would be the Louisiana marsh, Bayou Bienvenue, the foremost western end of Lake Pontchartrain. Now this is a small area and I don't know how you would draw a line on it. It is actually in the swamp, it is up in the swamp. I don't know whether there are many fishing, anyway. I don't believe it would be any problem. It would kind of enforce itself.

But the areas that we are asking be open, left open, would be Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, Chef, Rigolets Passes, the ship channel, be left open. In other words, it would be all deep waters.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And you mean to go



right on into the white shrimp season?

MR. DUDENHEFER: Right into the --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Not closing at all --

MR. DUDENHEFER: Not closing at all.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: -- except in these particular areas.

MR. DUDENHEFER: Only except those particular areas.

MR. BERRY: If you can make a little money this year, I would like to see you do it.

MR. DUDENHEFER: Well, I tell you, on the east side, and I am only speaking for the east side because we are trying to manage the shrimp in that area, and we had a beautiful season. We had a good size shrimp that brought a fair price and the fishermen are having a very good year because of this three area concept.

MR. THOMPSON: You all take note of that! We get kicked so many times. Please take note that we did something right!

THE CHAIRMAN: In Doc's event, we thought we were through with Doc and there would be nothing else and I had excused him from the room. He was



not just unavailable, he was working. So, now, Doc, questions have come up and we need your assistance on them, if you don't mind.

DR. ST. AMANT: I apologize for leaving. I had spoken about this beforehand and then forgot about it when I asked to leave.

These gentlemen are asking for the opening or extension of certain portions of the area on the east side of the river. Now we have done this each year. We have done it under the bill that was passed by Mr. LaBleu and under certain concurrent resolutions prior to that time. We have had no problem with it in past years, and biologically the evidence indicates that there are some areas that could be fished and we are in a position to carry this out, but I don't know where we stand under the Administrative Act on this type of issue. I don't know if it is clear, but if it legally clear and we can, I would recommend that we go ahead and do it as we have done in past years.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Doc, would you explain just what particular area he is talking about?

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, in the past what



we have done is open parts of the ship channel. We have opened a specified area out in the Breton Sound area and we have also allowed some fishing in the Rigolets, up to the I-10 bridge, and there is a special bill that has been passed now, if you will recall, to allow fishing in that area. So, within the limits of the law, we have every right to open it and the indication is that we could open these areas or let them remain open, but whether or not we can meet the total points of the Administrative Act, I don't know.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: How did we advertise it, to start with, Pie? Do you remember? Do we have a copy of how the season was set and what language was used?

MR. BERRY: One way to find out is to go ahead and do it and we will know whether it is right or not!

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to suggest this, if I may, that we could do this; that the Commission could empower our Director and legal staff to look into the ramifications and use their judgment on it.



DR. ST. AMANT: We pointed out when the original shrimp season was set and we also pointed out, if you will recall, when we asked them to put it in the Register, that we wanted the option to either extend the season or close it toward the end of the year.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think we did that.

DR. ST. AMANT: Now, whether this is acceptable and under that basis, I would think we can attempt to do it. If somebody wants to challenge us, I would say let them challenge.

MR. JONES: I make a motion, number one, we declare an emergency. We have got all those shrimp out there and the shrimpers want to catch them and they need the money and they owe the banks and they are hungry, all those kinds of things. It sounds to me like a real emergency, and that we open the area as set forth by Dr. St. Amant but we further empower the Director with a biological basis to close it if necessary.

DR. ST. AMANT: We have from now to the 31st to make continuing examinations and establish the exact areas. In the event there was any change,



we would recommend to the Director the proper procedures.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, you have heard the motion by Mr. Jones.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Berry.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He wants you to set the date now. He wants to be shrimping in the morning.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, he is shrimping until the 31st. He doesn't close.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That's right.

MR. JONES: From the 31st to the 18th.

MR. DUDENHEFER: We have until the 31st but the white shrimp are showing up now and those areas can be closed right now, the white shrimp areas.

MR. BERRY: If you can catch them, go get them.

MR. DUDENHEFER: Well, if we can protect the white shrimp and also have the other shrimp.

DR. ST. AMANT: The thing is, there is a difference here. We will have to have a lot



more information and the concurrence of the industry to close that area down before the day on the 31st and I don't know that we have that. I agree, as he says, it wouldn't hurt, and it may not hurt to close one part of that area and leave the rest open, but I think that for practical purposes we had better handle it this year like we have always handled it, that we will examine it, we will issue an extension in those areas where we think it ought to be extended at the proper time, and that will be after the 31st.

MR. BERRY: Call for the question.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question has been called for, so that will limit the debate. You have heard the motion. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

Unanimously carried.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild



Life and Fisheries Commission had been given the authority to extend the shrimp season in Act 409 of the 1974 Louisiana Legislative Session,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the 1975 brown shrimp season beyond July 31, 1975, in certain areas of Zone 1, which are as follows: The areas remaining open will be all of Lake Pontchartrain except the previously established sanctuary which is permanently closed to commercial fishing. Also closed will be Lake Maurepas. The remaining opened area will be lower Lake Pontchartrain south and east of Interstate 10, Lake St. Catherine, the Chef Menteur and Rigolets Passes, all the open waters of Lake Borgne, Mississippi Sound, Chandeleur Sound and Breton Sound, and that portion of the marshes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes from the Mississippi



River Gulf Outlet at a point from the United Gas Company installation adjacent to the Gulf Outlet south and east of the double pipeline canal to its termination on the east bank of the Mississippi River. Also open will be the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to a point where it meets the Seabrook of Inter-Harbor Canal. All of the shallow marshes adjacent to Lake Borgne, Mississippi Sound, and Chandeleur Sound and the northeast bank of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet from the rock jetties to the confluence of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway will be closed. Also those marshes lying west of the double pipeline in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes will be closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned area shall remain open until Midnight August 17, 1975; however, the Director shall be given the authority to close said area on a



24-hour notice if biological data indicates or enforcement problems arise.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else to come before the Commission?

MR. JONES: I have one thing.

MR. BRAUD: I have something.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Braud and then you. Come on up.

MR. BRAUD: Mr. Chairman, I am Francis Braud, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Commission members, Mr. Angelle and his staff, that worked so hard during this last session of the legislature to help create the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission as we believe it should be and moved it out of the Natural Resources Group into a separate agency of its own. Louisiana Wildlife Federation is grateful to the Commission, Mr. Angelle and his staff for the help that they gave us and the work that they have done to have the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in a separate agency of its own and also to the create the Conservation Fund again. We are grateful to



you and to Mr. Angelle and his staff for this effort and I want to personally thank him because this has been a great help to me. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Smith.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want to apologize. I overlooked the special rules and regulations on Lake Bistineau.

THE CHAIRMAN: Come ahead.

MR. SMITH: We have special problems on Lake Bistineau and we have about six rules I would like to run through here, and I believe that they are timely. One would be to prohibit the discharge of rifles and shotguns across the lake. Another would be to allow water skiing in designated areas only. These would be posted. They are safe areas to ski and have no snags and so forth, and the people have been endangering themselves by skiing in areas that are certainly dangerous. There would be no permanent ski platforms and we would set up a time limit for which these existing structures would be removed. They are becoming a problem. We would require that all additional piers and boat



houses extending into the lake would have to be approved by the Commission. That we would allow the use of only four-inch square webbing in the lake. That is on flag nets, gill nets and trammel nets. All new duck blinds would be of a floating nature.

We think that we can work this out and we would recommend its adoption. We would need a date on which this would go into effect, and we would need some time to post these ski areas. I haven't discussed this particular thing, but I believe maybe somewhere around the first of the year may be a logical time for this to go into effect, to give us time to post and mark all those ponds out here.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: What would be the penalty for anybody violating these rules?

MR. SMITH: We haven't worked that out yet, Mr. Angelle.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The next thing is enforcement. I just wondered if we provided some type of penalty?

MR. WILLE: Burt, don't we have a pro-



vision in the section of the blue book for any kind of violations? I believe it is a catch-all. I don't know where it is but I have read it. We could quote that section.

MR. SMITH: I might suggest I get with Mr. Duffy and work this out.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And maybe at the next meeting we can adopt some penalty clause.

MR. SMITH: I will sure do that, yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, do you recommend this with a date of January 1, 1976?

MR. SMITH: Yes, I think it is a practical date to give us time to work. There won't be much water skiing at that time but I think it would be a practical date and we could work it out.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, I will move that we adopt the regulations as written, effective date of January 1, 1976.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.



(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, intensive use by persons
boating, swimming, skiing and fishing on
Lake Bistineau is creating conditions
hazardous to the users of this lake, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has been
delegated administrative authority over
Lake Bistineau,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the
following rules and regulations are
adopted and are to become effective
January 1, 1976:

1. The discharging of rifles or
handguns into, across, or upon
Lake Bistineau is prohibited.
2. Water skiing will be allowed in
designated areas only. These
areas will be marked as ski



areas and are as follows:

1. Main channel as marked
2. Man-made ski road
3. Hard Pond
4. Blue Pond
5. Catfish Pond
6. Gregg Lake
7. Shreveport Pond
8. Teal Slough

3. Ski Platforms:

No new permanent ski platforms may be constructed. All existing structures will be removed within one (1) calendar year.

All ski platforms will be of a floating nature and will not be permanently attached to trees (nails, spikes, etc.)

Name and address of platform owner or owners will be attached to platform for identification purposes. Parking of platforms in an area does not give owner



exclusive rights to usage of this section of the lake. Platforms may not be parked in a manner which will obstruct normal boat traffic.

4. Piers and boat houses extending into Lake Bistineau will be approved by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission prior to construction.

5. Gill Nets, Flag Nets and Trammel Nets:
Size restriction - all flag nets, gill nets and trammel nets must be at least four inch square mesh or eight inch stretch.

6. Duck Blinds.

All new duck blind construction will be of a floating nature. Attaching blinds to trees using nails, spikes or any device driven into the tree is prohibited.

MR. WILLE: Kenneth, just one more thing. Is Peter working something out whereby we can void all these previous regulations?



MR. SMITH: I discussed this with Mr. Duffy and he suggested as a way to clear up all of these old overlapping and unenforceable regulations that now exist on Lake Bistineau, he thinks we can take blanket action to do away with all of the regulations which are presently on the books. He says they are legally on the books.

MR. WILLE: Let me amend my motion and say -- and if we get contested on this we will have to do something about it -- let me amend my motion and say we adopt, I move that we adopt the regulations on Lake Bistineau that the Commission has made up, effective January 1, and I also would like to rescind any previous regulations pertaining to Lake Bistineau prior to January 1 that would not conflict with legislative action.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute now. Let me get that again, because we have passed this, and I want it to be --

MR. WILLE: O. K. I would like to amend the motion to read that any regulations prior to January 1 which were written by the previous Lake Commission and the Police Jury be rescinded at



the time we adopt the new regulations. There is no sense in having conflicting regulations.

MR. THOMPSON: I second.

MR. BERRY: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a second. We are voting on an amendment --

MR. JONES: New motion. Make it a new motion.

MR. WILLE: Since we have already adopted the regulations for Lake Bistineau effective January 1, I move that we rescind any prior regulations that pertain to Lake Bistineau prior to the time that we have adopted these new regulations unless they conflict with legislative action. In other words, if they have been adopted by the legislature, I realize that we don't overpower the legislature, and Peter is going to have to check into this. Any and all regulations that were written by the previous Lake Commission, the Jury and so forth be rescinded at the time these new regulations go into effect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, so that the record will be correct, let me state it this way. Mr.



Wille has requested permission to withdraw a previous motion that was made and passed? Does the Commission grant him that permission?

MR. WILLE: I didn't withdraw the motion, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have to withdraw the first one if you are going to make the second one.

MR. WILLE: I do not. I made the first motion that we adopt them effective January 1. The second motion that I made is that we eliminate all regulations prior to January 1, repeal all the regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Repeal, that is correct. I didn't get the word "repeal". You have heard his motion that we repeal all regulations that were made prior to January 1. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

Mr. Jones has something to say.

MR. JONES: Allen is not here. I was



going to ask him to do it, but I wanted it to be put in the record, last time we adopted a resolution asking Sea Robin Pipeline to do something about the washout in their canal on the state wildlife refuge. We met with them yesterday. They have agreed to put the bulkhead in. On the issue of whether they are supposed to or not supposed to put any sand, we left it untouched, and we will face that down the road when we see what the bulkheads do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

Mr. Thompson, you have something?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. I move we adjourn.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: One thing, Mr. Jimmie, before we adjourn.

In talking with Ted O'Neil, head of the Fur Division, I understand he is expecting a lot of pressure from a lot of people in other parishes besides Calcasieu, Vermilion and Cameron, and he would like to be able to make a statement for the benefit of the Commission how he plans to be able to handle all this pressure. Ted, I think we



would like to recognize you if you have a word of wisdom what you plan to do.

MR. TED O'NEIL: I don't think that I intend to say that there won't be pressure, that we can handle everything that does come in, but the only people who really understand what we are up against with those three parishes and not the others are the people who are in this meeting today. All those trappers and those landowners in those other parishes, it will be very difficult to get them to understand this. I am here to say that I know most of them and I am going to do what I can to hold the pressure down and explain to them, and I think the Commission, too, should, because they are going to call on you, especially Mr. Berry. The way I understood it, we can't get on the delisted -- we can't delist other parishes until next year. Is that the way you understood it?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, the request has to go in and it will take anywhere from four to six months for their consideration, so the effective date of delisting would not be until next



year if it is delisted.

MR. YANCEY: We are not going to be able to delist it in these other parishes until we submit data to show that the alligator populations have reached a level where it is justified. That is what we did on the other three parishes and that is the reason they were delisted, but while we have got an expanding 'gator population in these other parishes, you have got to submit proof before you are going to get any action from them. That is just a hard fact.

MR. BERRY: I move that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will adjourn.

. . . . Thereupon, at 12:50
o'clock p.m., Tuesday, July 22,
1975, the Board meeting was
adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

